



Tracing the Towneleys 2004



Note John Towneley is an orphaned entry on Wikitree and they are looking for someone to assume the entry. This reference isn't currently in the wikitree entry.
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In the Towneley Room of the museum at Towneley Hall is the family tree of the family who once lived there. Many visitors to the museum ask for more information about the family history and some can even show their own ancestral links with early members of the Towneley family. The guide *Tracing the Towneleys* was compiled in 2000 in response to their requests. Many descendants of the family have had a strong interest in genealogy but few more so than Christopher Towneley (1604-1674) and this update in 2004 celebrates his 400th birthday. Among the new material are extracts from Christopher's evidences for proving the pedigree of the Towneleys of Towneley, which he wrote in 1662. This manuscript only returned on loan to Towneley in June 2003 after a period of more than 100 years away. There is also a new section on the Claimants. The creation of the National Archives A2A database has provided a major new resource since 2000 and a short description of what it can offer rounds off the section Other Townleys.

Preface - web version

This new edition of *Tracing the Towneleys* differs from the previous version in three main ways. Firstly, it has been produced primarily as a PDF file for **free distribution** on the internet. When the previous version was written in 2000, a PDF file was only created later as an after-thought. Secondly, there is much more about early members of the family born before 1604. Thirdly, the pedigree of the Towneleys of Towneley has been simplified and no longer repeats the legends believed by 19th century antiquarians.

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A short history of Towneley and the people who lived there

Towneley is in the borough of Burnley in the north east corner of Lancashire, where the Pennine hills mark the boundary with Yorkshire. It became the home of a family who used the place as their surname. This short tour of Towneley begins with Saxton's map of Lancashire published in 1579. This was the first detailed map of the area. We then go back in time to the earliest written records to show how the family history before 1500 is built mainly on a few legal documents relating to land transactions. After 1500, many more and varied records started to appear and from 1601 onwards, paintings of members of the family can be seen. The last part of this history tour moves at a brisk pace through the years after 1601, highlighting the ups and downs in the fortunes of the main line of the family.



This part of Saxton's map of Lancashire, dated 1577, includes all the places where the various branches of the family settled. In the top right corner is *Barnsyde*, the home of the Barnside branch of the family. Below, immediately to the west of Colne, is a small hill that represents Stone Edge where the Townleys of Stonehedge settled. In bottom right is the River Calder running through Cliviger past Holme, the home of the Whitaker family. It continues on past *Townley* towards Burnley. Hapton with its tower and park is seen to the west of Towneley. Just beyond Burnley on the east bank of the Calder, but not shown on the map, is Royle the home of the Royle branch of the family. The Calder then joins a stream now called Pendle Water and turns west towards Read, home of the Nowell family and on to Whalley, where it joins the River Ribble. The Ribble continues west towards Ribchester where close by was the home of the Townleys of Dutton. The rivers and Pendle Hill in the centre of the map dominate the area. Clitheroe (*Clethero*) and its castle are to the north west of Pendle Hill. At this time, the roads were poor and nothing but three bridges are shown to indicate transport routes.

When Domesday Book, our earliest public record, was compiled for King William I in 1086 Lancashire itself did not exist. Domesday describes an area between the Rivers Ribble and Mersey flowing west into the Irish Sea as *Inter Ripam et Mer sham* and the picture emerges of a sparsely populated land of little value.

The Saxons had divided the lands up into areas called Hundreds and these Hundreds were unchanged by the Norman conquest of England. The area between the Ribble and Mersey contained four Hundreds and the one of interest to us is the Hundred of Blackburnshire. Domesday records only two churches in the Hundred, Blackburn in the west and Whalley to the east. It records 28 manors scattered amongst moor, marsh and woodland but does not identify them by name. Sometime after 1086 during the reign of King William II, the lands of the Hundred of Blackburnshire were granted to Robert de Lacy. The de Lacy family already controlled large areas of land in Yorkshire and had built a castle at Pontefract. They established their headquarters for the Hundred at Clitheroe, where there was probably already a castle. The main benefit of Blackburnshire for the de Lacys was the abundant supply of wild animals. Normans loved hunting and three large areas of the parish of Whalley (Pendle, Rossendale and Trawden) became the private hunting grounds of the de Lacy family.

King William II died in 1100 and early in the reign of his successor King Henry I, Robert de Lacy was banished to Normandy and Hugh de la Val held his English lands. The earliest local charter dates from around 1121 when Hugh de la Val made a gift of the revenues from Whalley church to the Priory of Pontefract, which had been founded by Robert de Lacy in 1090. Included as part of the gift were the churches at Burnley and Colne and this is the earliest mention of these two townships.

By the time King Henry I died in 1135, the de Lacy family had regained their English lands and were loyal supporters of his successor, King Stephen. Before the arrival of the Normans there were 48 monasteries in England but by 1154, when King Stephen died, the numbers of religious houses had increased to nearly 300. The most important monasteries in the north of England were those of the Cistercians who arrived in England in 1129. They established communities in remote areas where they improved marginal land and reared large flocks of sheep. The wool from the sheep became the country's principal export.

In 1147 Henry de Lacy, son of Robert and now head of the family, founded a Cistercian abbey at Barnoldswick, 5 miles north of Colne, just over the Yorkshire border. Even the Cistercians found the local climate unsuitable and by 1154, they had relocated to Kirkstall between Bradford and Leeds, 40 miles to the east. In 1160, the monks of Kirkstall were granted land in Cliviger where the monks established a farm. The area of Cliviger extends south eastwards from Burnley to the border of Yorkshire with the River Calder running through the centre. As we will see later, the monks found this place not much better than Barnoldswick.

During King Stephen's reign, the Scots had held the lands north of Ribble and they were not forced out until 1157. In 1160, a sheriff of Lancaster was appointed to collect taxes for the royal exchequer from the four Hundreds south of the Ribble together with the Hundreds of Amounderness and Lonsdale north of the Ribble. These lands formed the county of Lancashire but it was not until 1182 that the exchequer considered it worthwhile recording Lancashire as a separate county.

The male line of the de Lacy family died out with Robert de Lacy in 1193 and the Lacy lands were inherited by Roger, constable of Chester, who took the de Lacy name. Some time between 1195 when he legally acquired the lands and 1211 when he died, Roger de Lacy made a grant of land to Geoffrey son of Robert the dean of Whalley. This is where Towneley is first mentioned.

The charter begins by granting Geoffrey and his heirs two bovates of land in *Tunleia* (Towneley) for a hunting lodge together with the right to share in the common pastures of *Brunleia* (Burnley). It then describes a large area around Cliviger where Geoffrey was allowed to hunt unhindered and goes on to grant four bovates of land at Coldcotes, where his hunting dogs could be kept, and two bovates of land at Snodesworth for keeping cattle. These last two places are much closer to Whalley. In return, Geoffrey was to tender the service due for one tenth of a knight's fee.

A bovat was as much land as an ox could plough in a year, roughly 15 acres. About 1500 acres of land was considered necessary to support a knight, therefore small estates were measured in fractions of a knight's fee. The King granted land to his Barons in exchange for military service and the maintenance of law and order. This gave the King more opportunity to increase his revenues. The Barons in turn were able to grant some of this land to others who could satisfy the Barons' commitments to military service and help in administering justice through the local Hundred courts. The de Lacy family established the Hundred court for Blackburnshire at their castle in Clitheroe and much of what we know of the early history of Towneley and the surrounding district comes from charters granting land together with related court and tax records. The concession of allowing Geoffrey hunting rights was highly prized by his descendants and appears a number of times in later court records.

The Dean of Whalley was the local custodian of the church in this remote part of the country and was an important member of the community. He was allowed to marry and to pass on his authority to his heirs, which helped to establish continuity. Within a few years the post was abolished but the last Dean passed the lands described in this charter to members of his family.

Only later copies of the first *Tunleia* charter exist but there are 13th century public records that confirm the services rendered by those who settled the land at Towneley. In 1242, Henry Gedleng is recorded as holding these lands by knight service. The name 'Gedleng' does not appear in any other records and this Henry is probably the same Henry de *Tunlay* who along with his brother Richard and son William was witness to a charter when Adam Abbot of Kirkstall (1249-1259) granted land in Cliviger to Walter the chaplain of *Tunlay*. Surnames were still not in general use at this time and it is not uncommon to find the same person using a different name in relation to different land. This charter of Walter the Chaplain is now in Lancashire Record Office [DDTo O/12/10].

By the end of the 13th century there was a big improvement in the economic prosperity of the area. Much of this was due to Henry de Lacy, great grandson of Roger de Lacy, who was born in 1251. During Henry's lifetime an efficiently organised and profitable agricultural industry developed in Blackburnshire. Parts of the hunting grounds of Pendle, Rossendale and Trawden became vaccaries or cow farms, mainly for the production of oxen. The population was steadily increasing at this time and more oxen allowed more of the wastes to be improved into arable land creating more food and

more rent revenues. In 1294 Henry de Lacy obtained a charter from King Edward I allowing markets in a number of towns across the country. One of these was at Burnley, which was allowed a market every Tuesday and a three days fair each year at the end of June. By 1296, there were 30 vaccaries and over 2400 head of cattle on Henry's lands in Blackburnshire.

Another change brought about by Henry de Lacy was the establishment of a monastery at Whalley. In 1172 an ancestor of Henry had founded a Cistercian monastery at Stanlaw on the south bank of the Mersey estuary. Stanlaw was frequently flooded and there were no grazing grounds for sheep and so no revenue from wool. In 1296 the monks were persuaded to move to Lancashire. On 12 June 1296 Henry de Lacy laid the first stone of Whalley Abbey. In 1311 Henry de Lacy died leaving no sons to inherit. Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was married to Henry's daughter and so the Hundred of Blackburnshire became united with the estate of the Earls of Lancaster.

By around 1295 the last of the men of the Towneley branch of the old Deans of Whalley had died and the land was shared between three sisters Agnes, Cecily and Isabel. Cecily was married to John de la Legh. John's father Gilbert was in overall charge of the de Lacy vaccaries. Before 1285 John's grandfather Michael de la Legh had rented pasturage for 100 oxen and 200 sheep in Cliviger. The monks of Kirkstall could not make any profit from the lands at Cliviger and in 1287 they handed them back to Henry de Lacy. Abbot Hugh, who was the abbot between 1284 and 1287, had already granted Gilbert, son of Michael de la Legh all the land which Robert de Grange had held; a yearly rent of 13s 4d was to be paid on St. Giles's Day. Henry de Lacy ratified and added to this grant so that by the time of Henry's death, Gilbert de la Legh was the largest tenant in Cliviger renting 140 acres. The next largest tenants were Gilbert's brother and son-in-law, each with 60 acres, and between them they accounted for over 40% of the developed land in Cliviger.

In 1315 Robert de Gretton and Agnes his wife took court proceedings against John de la Legh and Cecilia his wife and Philip de Clayton and Isabel his wife, complaining they had refused to make partition of the manor of Towneley which Agnes, Cecily and Isabel had inherited from their brother Nicholas de Towneley. The de la Legh family saw the benefit of the land being managed as a single entity and continued to add to their estates. In 1323 John de la Legh successfully defended against a charge of unlawful hunting in the East Moors in Towneley and in Cliviger. He cited the hunting rights given to his late wife's family but by now the bounds of these rights had expanded beyond Cliviger to include land almost 10 miles across at its greatest extent and over 40 square miles in area. In 1328 Gilbert, John's father, increased the land holdings by purchasing the manor of Hapton.

John de la Legh and Cecilia had two sons, Gilbert and Richard. In February 1351 the franchise for providing a bailiff for the district of Blackburnshire was shared between the Abbot of Whalley, John de Altham, Gilbert de la Legh and his brother who now called himself Richard de Towneley. They collected the profits and in return rendered a fix yearly sum to the Lord of Blackburnshire who at this time was Henry Grosmont, 4th Earl of Lancaster. Later that year, King Edward III gave the Earl of Lancaster sovereign rights within the county as the 1st Duke of Lancaster. As a result, the de la Legh family became, in effect, direct tenants of the crown. (Any differences between the Dukes of Lancaster and the King were finally resolved in 1399 when Henry son of the 2nd Duke

removed King Richard II and became King Henry IV.) Richard de Touneley developed a career as a court official. In 1353 he was one of two receivers for Lancashire appointed by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, and in 1361 and 1371 he attended Parliament as a knight of the shire. He was Escheator of the County in 1371 and was High Sheriff from 1375 to 1378.

Although Richard used Towneley as his surname, he probably did not live at Towneley during the last thirty years of his life. In 1351 he rented the manor of St Saviour, called 'le Sted' (now Stydd), at Ribchester five miles west of Whalley. The Hospitallers of St John had acquired it around 1265 and probably it was now vacant because of plague. By 1350, the plague known as the Black Death had killed over a quarter of the population of England and records indicate that 100 people had died in Ribchester in that year.

Ribchester was a more central location for someone moving regularly around the county. Documents of that period now in Lancashire Record Office show Richard was using the Stydd as a base in the 1360s and he acquired more land in Dutton in 1376. Richard died on 16 April 1381, leaving three sons, John, Robert and Henry. Gilbert de la Legh died after his brother and left a widow, Alicia, but no children. When Alicia died in 1388 there was an inquiry called an inquisition post mortem. Such an inquiry was always taken after the death of a tenant in chief (that is a direct tenant of the crown) but not all of the records have survived. The purpose was to establish what lands were held and who should succeed to them. If there was no one to inherit the land, it was reclaimed by the crown. In this case, Richard's son John inherited. The feudal system required the lands be held by one person and not be dispersed among many. This made it easier to enforce the obligations that came with the lands. The rule adopted was that of primogeniture, the eldest son inherited.

The lands John inherited included the manors of Hapton and Birtwisle and two parts of the manor of *Tounlay* together with various buildings and land in Cliviger, Worsthorne and Briercliffe cum Extwistle. In 1381, the third part of the manor of Tounley inherited by Agnes, the sister of John's grandmother, had been released to John by her descendants and so in 1388 one person again held the whole of the manor. Richard de Tounlay's descendants all took one or another of the variations of Towneley as their surname. Robert and Henry are recorded as chaplains but Robert appears to have had a son called Henry Towneley of Dutton.

In 1382 John de Towneley had married Isabella, daughter of Mathew Rixton and had a son Richard. John died in 1399 and again the records survive of an inquisition post mortem held after his death. The inquisition showed John still had all the lands inherited from Gilbert and Alice and confirmed Richard was the heir to his father's estates but as a minor he would not take possession of the estate until he came of age. The inquisition recorded that Richard was born on 14 May 1387 at Stydd Chapel in Dutton and baptised at Ribchester Church. He proved his age and inherited the estate in the 10th year of King Henry IV (1408-9).

In November 1408, Richard made an enfeoffment of his estate to Richard Catterall and Robert Singleton in a deed given at Cliviger. (An enfeoffment was an early form of trust in which trustees held the land on behalf of the landowner as a means of avoiding inheritance taxes). This indicates that Richard was living at Cliviger rather than at Ribchester or at Hapton where many of the earlier deeds were signed. Legend has it that the early Towneley hunting lodge was on Castle Hill, a quarter of a mile south of the present Towneley Hall. At the foot of this hill is a farm called Old House. This is thought to be the site of the Towneley family home at Cliviger in the 14th century.

The use of knight service as a means of raising armies died out during the early 14th century. When the monarch needed soldiers he used a contractual system with 'indentures' between the King and his tenants in chief and then between them and their tenants and so on right down to the troops at the bottom of the hierarchy. One such an indenture concerning Richard is in the Public Record Office at Kew

E 101/69/6/473 : *Parties to Indenture: Indentures between the king and the following for service in his invasion of France John Morley and Richard Towneley.*
3 Henry V [1415]

Henry V of England invaded Normandy in August 1415. Other records show Richard was one of the 900 men-at-arms who together with 5,000 archers defeated a French force, estimated to be over 20,000, at the battle of Agincourt on 25 October 1415.

The lands at Towneley had not appeared very prominently in the 14th century deeds. Coldcotes and Snodesworth do not appear at all in any of the inquisitions post mortem. These lands, part of the original charter granted by Roger de Lacy, must have been given to Whalley Abbey before 1388. In 1446 Richard Towneley and the Abbot of Whalley were identified as holding Towneley, Coldcotes and Snodesworth by a tenth part of a knight's fee and as a result were each requested to pay 5 shillings as tax. In 1453 Richard and his cousin, Henry Towneley of Dutton, had a dispute over the boundary between Cliviger and Towneley. James Walton and John Halstead arbitrated. To quote the historian T. D. Whitaker describing the boundary in 1800 "*These wiseacres having appointed a few stakes and a 'root walt' tree to be boundaries for evermore, they are as might be expected, not very certain at present*". Today, part of the Cliviger boundary within Towneley Park is taken to be the Everage stream that divides Towneley Hall from the Old House.

Richard had a son **John**, born in 1415, and a daughter Matilda. When he died on 30th September 1454, he left a widow Alice but it is unclear if she was the mother of his children. His inquisition post mortem was held on 30th April 1455 and his son John was confirmed as his heir. It is possible that Richard started building on the Towneley Hall site but it is most likely that the earliest part of the building we see today was completed by his son in the 1450s. This is the South wing, originally a tower house, 90 foot by 40 foot with a basement and two floors above and buttresses at each corner. At the time it would have been the largest private house in Blackburnshire and firmly established Towneley as the main base for the family.

John was married to Isabella, daughter of Nicholas Butler of Rawcliffe, before he was four years old but a divorce was obtained in 1442 and in 1445 John married Isabelle, daughter of Richard de Shireburne. In 1456 he obtained a licence from the Bishop of Lichfield for a domestic chapel at Towneley, Cliviger and Birtwisle. Isabelle died before 1462 having born five sons and a daughter. For a genealogist this is probably the most important of the Towneley marriages. Most of the American descendants of the Towneley family today find their links with either Lawrence, the second son or Nicholas, the third son. Grace Towneley, the only daughter, married Roger Nowell of Read and many American descendants of the Whitaker family can find a link with the Towneley family through Grace's granddaughter Elizabeth Nowell who married Thomas Whitaker of the Holme in Cliviger.

John died around 1473 but there are no record surviving of an inquisition after his death. On 5th May 1474 at Towneley, the eldest son Richard granted lands in Hapton and Birtwisle to his brothers Lawrence and Nicholas. The contract of Richard's marriage to Joanna, sister of Christopher Southworth, is dated 24th September 1472 and their son John was born at Towneley on 31st July 1473. In 1482 Richard took part in the war with Scotland and on 24th July was knighted at Hutton Field. Sir Richard died on 8th September and the record of his inquisition post mortem, which took place on 19th December 1482, survives to show that his son John was heir to the estate. Previously in 1480, Richard had arranged the marriage of John, then seven years old, to Isabella, daughter and heir apparent of Charles Pilkington. Therefore, in 1482, John became the ward of his father-in-law, now Sir Charles Pilkington. Sir Charles himself died around 1485 and his daughter inherited the estate of Gateford in Nottinghamshire.

The early life of John reflected the lives of his ancestors; he took part in the war with Scotland and was knighted in 1497. In that year, he obtained a licence for a chapel at Hapton where he enclosed the land for a park and built a tower. He purchased more land in Burnley and Cliviger from Richard, son and heir of Thomas Towneley (a member of the Dutton branch of the family). Sir John was in court in 1498 to prove his right to hunting outside his estates using the same defence as John de la Legh used in 1323. In 1373, the de la Legh family had established a chantry in Burnley church. In 1500, Sir John rebuilt and re-endowed the chantry for the souls of his ancestors.

Up to this point, what we know of the family comes mainly from land transactions and inquisitions post mortem. Now after 1500 much more information started to become available as the world of Sir John moved from the mediaeval to the modern age. One important change in 1476 was the arrival of printing in England. As books became cheap and plentiful, Sir John's descendants would build up libraries that today give us insight into what interested them. Another important change was the way in which England was governed. The courts of law and the tax-raising organisations became more efficient and preserved a wider range of records. One class of record that survived from the 1530s was the personal will of Towneley family members. They provided much more information than the records of the inquisitions post mortem, including details of personal property and illegitimate children.

In 1507 the so-called forests of Pendle, Rossendale and Trawden, once the hunting grounds of the de Lacys and later used for vaccaries, were re-let by the King's commissioners to local farmers to manage in their own way. Sir John increased his land

holdings as a result. In 1514 he enlarged his park at Hapton to embrace 1100 acres making it the second largest in Lancashire after that of the Earl of Derby at Knowsley.

Sir John was High Sheriff of the county in 1532 and it seems spent more time in Lancashire than on his Gateford estate. The antiquarian John Leyland about 1534 visiting Nottinghamshire recorded "*Within a good mile or I came to Worksop I rode through a park of Mr Townley's, a knight for the most abiding in Lancashire.*" Around 1532 Sir John built a chapel at Towneley at the north corner of the Tower House. The chapel still survives, having been moved stone by stone to the North wing in the 18th century. An audit of Sir John's income from his estates in the Burnley area for the year 1535-6 has also survived. At this time he had 400 sheep and the audit shows the income was only a little over £100 per year, which reflects the poor state of agriculture in the area. A number of the fields that are mentioned in the audit at Towneley such as *Castell hill, the chapel lee, the Brode yng* and *the heigh Rode* can still be identified today. The greatest event towards the end of John's life was the dissolution of the monasteries. Whalley Abbey itself was closed in March 1537 and mediaeval vestments now on show at Towneley are said to have been saved by Sir John at this time.

Sir John's eldest son, Richard was born in 1499 and a second son, Charles, was born around 1502. Sir John also had six daughters who all married and several illegitimate children born after the death of his wife Isabella in 1522. Richard was contracted to marry Elizabeth Fuljambe in 1511 and he fathered two sons and two daughters by her as well as several other illegitimate children. Sir John married for the second time in 1531. His wife was Anne, daughter of Ralph Caterall. Sir John settled lands in Lancashire in trust for himself and Anne for their two lives and after to the use of Richard Towneley the younger, (that is the eldest legitimate son of Sir John's eldest son).

A settlement is the transfer of property to trustees for the benefit of husband, wife and children. The dominant feature of a settlement is the entail, or pattern of succession it establishes. In a typical arrangement, the estate was conveyed to A for life, then to his son B for life, with remainder in tail to B's eldest son. One purpose was to prevent the son from selling the property and leaving nothing to the descendants. Once in each generation a time came to resettle the estate. Sir John clearly believed his son Richard, given the opportunity, might well disperse the family wealth.

In 1536 Sir John personally arranged the marriage of young Richard to Frances, daughter of Christopher Wimbishe of Nocton. After the marriage in 1537, Sir John modified the entail to include the heirs of Richard and Frances. After the death of his second son Charles in 1539, Sir John made his final will for his personal estate, which contained provision for his various illegitimate children but left nothing for his eldest son.

It has been suggested that Sir John and his son Richard were at odds over religion. Sir John died in 1540 confirming the Catholic faith of his ancestors and later events suggest Richard was a Protestant. All this is supposition but it is true that the national controversy over religion in the subsequent thirty years was to leave a permanent mark on the family. From 1547 to 1553 the Protestant reformation was in the ascendancy, and then from 1553 to 1558 the pendulum had swung back in favour of the Catholics before finally resting with the Protestants when Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in November 1558.

England was at war again with Scotland in the 1540s and Richard Towneley the younger fought there and was made a knight in 1547. In 1550 the lands belonging to the Towneley Chantry, endowed by Sir John in 1500, were confiscated by the crown. Richard Towneley the elder acquired the land and as a result was involved in a court case with his son Sir Richard in 1551. In 1553 Sir Richard was again in court when his father and other churchwardens accused him of removing church vestments from Burnley church. Altogether, Sir Richard was involved in over a dozen lawsuits in the court of the Duchy of Lancaster during his life. One of the lawyers often involved was Sir Richard's cousin, John Towneley of Gray's Inn. He was born in 1528, the only son of Sir John's second son Charles and Elizabeth Kay. John's mother was older than her husband with a family of six sons and nine daughters by her previous husband, John Nowell of Read, who died in 1525.

Sir Richard died before his father on 22nd October 1554. There was an inquisition post mortem held on 10th January 1555, which reviewed Sir John's trust of 1537. The only surviving child of the marriage of Sir Richard and Frances was Mary, born in 1541, now 13 years old. She was confirmed as Sir Richard's heir. In the same year, Frances re-married to Alexander Radcliffe, son and heir of Sir William Radcliffe of Ordsall. Frances was a most eligible bride. When her brother, Thomas Wimbishe, had died in 1553 she inherited the estate of Nocton of Lincolnshire. However there was a snag as Thomas had left large debts, which encumbered the Nocton estate until 1568.

Richard Towneley the elder died in 1556 and his will made nephew John Towneley his executor. The will contained a long list of beneficiaries including three bastard daughters of the late Alice Brinley, another bastard daughter called Johan and two bastard sons, both called John. No mention was made of his granddaughter Mary. In 1556, John Towneley obtained the church's permission, confirmed by the Bishop of Chester, to marry Mary Towneley. On 8 June 1557, Robert Percivall, Archdeacon of Chester issued a licence for the marriage.

It is not clear what involvement, if any, Alexander Radcliffe and Frances Towneley had in John and Mary's marriage settlement. What is known is that the Towneley family wanted to avoid losing their land in the event of John and Mary failing to produce any male heirs.

On 13th April 1560 an agreement was made between John Towneley and Mary his wife on the one party and Lawrence Towneley of Barnside on the other party. John and Mary agreed to give all their lands to trustees for

"the use of the said John and Mary and of their heirs males of the body of the said John Lawfully begotten And for default to the use of the said Lawrence Towneley for term of his life And after to the use of Henry Towneley son and heir Apparent of the said Lawrence Towneley and the heirs Male of the body of the same Henry lawfully begotten And for default to Robert Towneley one other of the sons of the said Lawrence and his heirs male.. {repeated for the other brothers Lawrence, Charles, Richard and for Robert the brother of Lawrence the father} .. And for default to Edmund Towneley of Royle and his heirs males And for Lack to Thomas Towneley bastard son of Sir John Towneley Knt. And his heirs male And for default to Barnard Towneley bastard son of John Towneley brother to the said Sir John and his heirs males And for default to John Towneley the elder als Dyneley bastard son of Richard Towneley Esq. and his heirs male and for default to one John Towneley the younger

one other of the bastard sons of the said Richard Towneley and of his heirs males And for default to John Towneley of Dutton and his heirs males And for default to the right heirs of the said John Towneley Esq. for ever Except £20 yearly xcell of the said premises to Dame Frances Towneley"

It should not go unnoticed that Thomas Towneley, bastard son of Sir John was married to Lucy, the eldest daughter of Lawrence Towneley of Barnside, which is probably the reason that all the illegitimate sons were included in the entail. In the event none of this mattered because Richard, the first of the seven sons of John and Mary, was born on 29th April 1566 and in 1601 there was a new settlement naming Richard and his two sons and for default, Richard's brothers. There were no children from the marriage of Frances and Alexander Radcliffe. As part of a legal settlement in May 1568 Frances and her husband were allowed use of Hapton Tower for their lives and Mary was to inherit the Nocton estate. Alexander Radcliffe died in September 1568.

In 1559 Queen Elizabeth I had required everyone to follow the Church of England and it became illegal for anyone to attend Catholic mass. Over the years, the laws against those determined to support the old Catholic religion became more severe. Anyone not attending a regular Anglican service was termed a recusant and subject to heavy fines and possible imprisonment. John Towneley refused to renounce his Catholic faith and gave shelter to Catholic priests at Towneley. As a result, he was imprisoned on numerous occasions between 1573 and 1594.

Religious controversy appears to have divided the family earlier in the 16th century but this was not the case during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. John's Protestant half-brothers continued to be on good terms with him. The eldest, Alexander Nowell became Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral London in 1560. Another brother, Lawrence Nowell was Dean of Lichfield. A third brother, Robert Nowell became Attorney-General of the Court of Wards. Robert died in 1569 and the money he had amassed as a successful lawyer was distributed to students and the poor. John Towneley, Alexander and Lawrence Nowell were the executors of Robert's will, which contained the following words "*I desire my brother John to be good to my two brethren if the world change and if they stand in need of him*". Alexander and Lawrence had both escaped imprisonment and possible death during the reign of Queen Mary by fleeing to Germany. At the time Robert wrote his will in 1563 Queen Elizabeth's hold on the crown still seemed uncertain.

In July 1569 the two brothers visited Lancashire and stayed with John Towneley at Towneley Hall. They distributed linen and woollen cloth among the poor of the parish to satisfy the requirements of Robert's will. There were few in the area who considered themselves so wealthy that they did not need the cloth and the names of around 1600 people who shared in this bounty were recorded. The record survives today as a good indication of the Burnley population at that time. It includes all the domestic servants at Towneley Hall, a total of 30 men and 8 women.

Whilst John, Mary and all but one of their sons were recusants, most of the other members of the family conformed to the Anglican Church. It was very expensive to do otherwise for there could be a fine of £20 per lunar month for failing to attend the Anglican Church service. Recusants were disabled from practising the law or medicine, and from holding office civil or military. The penal laws against Catholics were to remain in force until 1778 though they were not always put into execution with equal vigour. As time went on the Towneley family played virtually no part in local affairs and this remained the case until 1829 when the laws were fully repealed.

A picture of John and Mary Towneley and their children at prayer painted in 1601 is displayed at Towneley. A label below the painting names the places John was imprisoned and records that up to 1601 he had been fined over £5,000 and was now, in 1601, bound to keep within five miles of Towneley. Although the painting shows seven sons and seven daughters, it was not a prolific family. Only one of the daughters married. Apart from the eldest son, Richard, only one of his brothers produced a son and he died unmarried. There were no further branches of the family to match those of Barnside, Dutton and Royle.



Richard, the eldest son of John and Mary, is seen at the front of the seven sons in this painting of 1601. He had married Jane, daughter of Ralph Assheton in 1594. In 1621, one of their sons, Charles born in 1600, entered the English College in Rome. His replies to the questions on admission have survived and provide a good picture of the state of the family at that time:

"I was born at my father's house, Towneley, in Lancashire, where I was brought up for thirteen or fourteen years, and then sent to St. Omers, and remained there for nearly two years. I then returned to England, and for about three years lived at a house of my father's in Lincolnshire, when I again returned to Belgium and spent nearly a year at Louvain, and am now come thence to Rome ... My parents are Catholics. Their income is about £1,700 a year in rents. I have three brothers and one sister. My three uncles on my father's side are Catholics, except one; on my mother's side all heretics. Of the rest of my relatives many are heretics, and but a few Catholics. I was always a Catholic".

Charles left Rome in 1624, returned to England, and married Mary Trappes in 1628. His father died in the same year. When eldest brother Richard died unmarried in 1635, Charles inherited the estate. By the time of King Charles I, less than 1% of the English population were Catholics. The King saw the Catholics less as a threat and more as a way of increasing his revenues. In 1632 Richard made an annual payment of £213 6s. 8d. to cover his recusancy fines. The Catholics hoping for toleration claimed they were loyal to the King and proved this by supporting him against Parliament during the Civil War.

Charles Towneley was killed fighting for King Charles I at the Battle of Marston Moor in 1644. He left his wife with four sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Richard Towneley (1629-1707), was one of the most talented members of the family and his contributions to science include being the first person to keep regular rainfall records in England. The civil war had been disastrous for the Towneley family, and one of the first problems to face Richard was the redemption of the estates, which had fallen into the hands of the Parliamentary sequestrators during the war. By 1653 the Lancashire lands were regained, but the Nocton estate had to be sold in 1661 to pay outstanding debts.

On the succession of King James II in 1685 the Catholics were again allowed to take part in public life and Richard Towneley became a justice of the peace. After 1688, this brief respite for English Catholics ended. The King had to flee the country and in February 1689 he was replaced by his daughter Mary and her Protestant husband William of Orange. In 1690, Richard and his son Charles were implicated in plots to secure the return of King James II and from this time on the family were noted for their Jacobite sympathies.

The next generation of the Towneley family were heavily involved in rebellions. The eldest son Richard inherited the Towneley estates on the death of his father Charles in 1712. Richard was arrested for treason after the Battle of Preston that marked the end to the Jacobite rebellion of 1715. The records of his trial survive and show he was fortunate to be found not guilty. The trial was however not without its price. The expense incurred in his defence could only be met by cutting down and selling all but one of the oaks in Towneley Park. In 1717, the size of the Towneley estate in Lancashire was 2,406 acres and its farms carried an annual rental of £991.

Two of Richard's brothers, John and Francis went to earn a living with the French army before aiding the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. Francis was captured at Carlisle and executed in 1746. His severed head was one of the last to be displayed on Temple Bar in London. The other brother John was more fortunate, he returned to France to receive a pension and the order of St. Louis. A fourth brother, George was not involved in these rebellions. He helped to rebuild the family finances through marriage to Mary Hodgson, the heiress of Leighton Hall in Lancashire.

Richard married Mary, daughter of Lord Widdrington and they had seven sons but only two, William and John, survived to maturity. The Widdrington family like the Towneleys were Catholics and Jacobites. Many Catholic families had lost their estates by supporting the Jacobite cause and the options of suitable marriages for aristocratic Catholic families were becoming fewer. The next generation took care not to lose their estates through the support of a Jacobite rebellion. Richard's eldest son, William Towneley (1714-1742) married Cecilia Standish. She was a wealthy heiress and her mother was a daughter of Henry, sixth Duke of Norfolk. The descendants of William and John married into what was almost one extended family of the English Catholic aristocracy with the Duke of Norfolk at its head.

After the death of William at the early age of 27 in 1742, Towneley Hall became rather neglected as a family home. His widow, Cecilia, left Lancashire at the time of the 1745 rebellion and on her return lived at Standish Hall. The eldest son and heir, Charles, spent a number of years abroad before buying a house in London. He became a national celebrity through his collection of Roman sculptures that was one of the sights of London. On his death, Parliament voted £20,000 so the nation could purchase the collection for the British Museum. Charles never married and Towneley passed to his brother Edward.

Edward had taken the name Standish and, when their mother had died in 1777, had inherited the Standish estate that contained the richest coalfields in Lancashire. The family was now wealthier than it had ever been, not least because there were no longer any recusancy fines to pay. In 1800 the Leeds and Liverpool canal arrived at Burnley. The local population began growing at a rapid rate and there was an increase in land values. When Edward Standish died in 1807, Standish passed to his sister Cecilia's son, Thomas Strickland of Sizergh but the Towneley estate was inherited by John Towneley, 65 years after the death of his brother William.

John, born in 1731, was only six years older than his nephew Charles. John like Charles was a passionate collector, in his case the passion was for books. John was left a number of properties by relatives so he had ample means. In 1786, his uncle George left him the Leighton estate that he had acquired through marriage. Then in 1792, John inherited the Stella (County Durham) estates of the Widdrington family, to whom he was related through his mother, on the death of Thomas Eyre. John lived much of his life in London and he and Charles met there often and were good friends. John had one son, Peregrine born in 1762, and late in his life Charles, in expectation that his cousin Peregrine would eventually inherit the Towneley estate, bought more farms around Burnley to increase the annual income. When John died in 1813 Peregrine set about renovating Towneley, selling his father's book collection to help to pay for the rebuilding.

The Catholic Relief Act of 1829 allowed Catholics once again to take public office and in 1831 Peregrine became High Sheriff of Lancashire. He continued to increase the size of his estate and in 1835 he bought the manor of Slaidburn and the Bowland Forest estate of about twenty thousand acres in Yorkshire. Peregrine had two sons, Charles and John, and on his death in 1846, the elder son Charles inherited the estates.

With Colonel Charles Towneley (1803-1876), we have almost come full circle to John de la Legh and the vaccaries. In the 1850s Charles established a successful herd of shorthorn cattle at Towneley to meet the rapidly growing Burnley population's need for milk. The breed achieved national fame with outstanding success at agricultural shows. The moors once the place to hunt deer was now used for shooting grouse. In 1873 the Towneley estates in Lancashire amounted to 14,086 acres and together with estates in Yorkshire (23,153 acres) and County Durham (2,826 acres) were worth £26,979 a year

When Charles died in 1876, he left three daughters but no sons and the estate passed to his brother John. John had a son, Richard, and four daughters but within two years, first Richard and then John died. Without male heirs, it was necessary to divide the estate between the daughters and this was no easy task and required a private Act of Parliament, which was completed in 1885. As a result, the daughters of John Towneley jointly held 21,341 acres in Yorkshire, being the land Peregrine purchased in 1835, plus 2,826 acres of the Stella estate in County Durham. The families of the daughters of Charles Towneley received the Towneley Hall estate, amounting to 15,897 acres mainly in Lancashire but extending into the West Riding east of Burnley.

Charles's eldest daughter Caroline (1838-73) had married Lord Norreys. He became the seventh Earl of Abingdon after his wife's death. The second daughter, Emily (1839-1892), had married Lord Alexander Gordon-Lennox, and the youngest, Alice (1846-1921), had married the first Baron O'Hagan (1812-85). Lord O'Hagan was Lord Chancellor of Ireland from 1868 until 1874 and again in 1880-1.

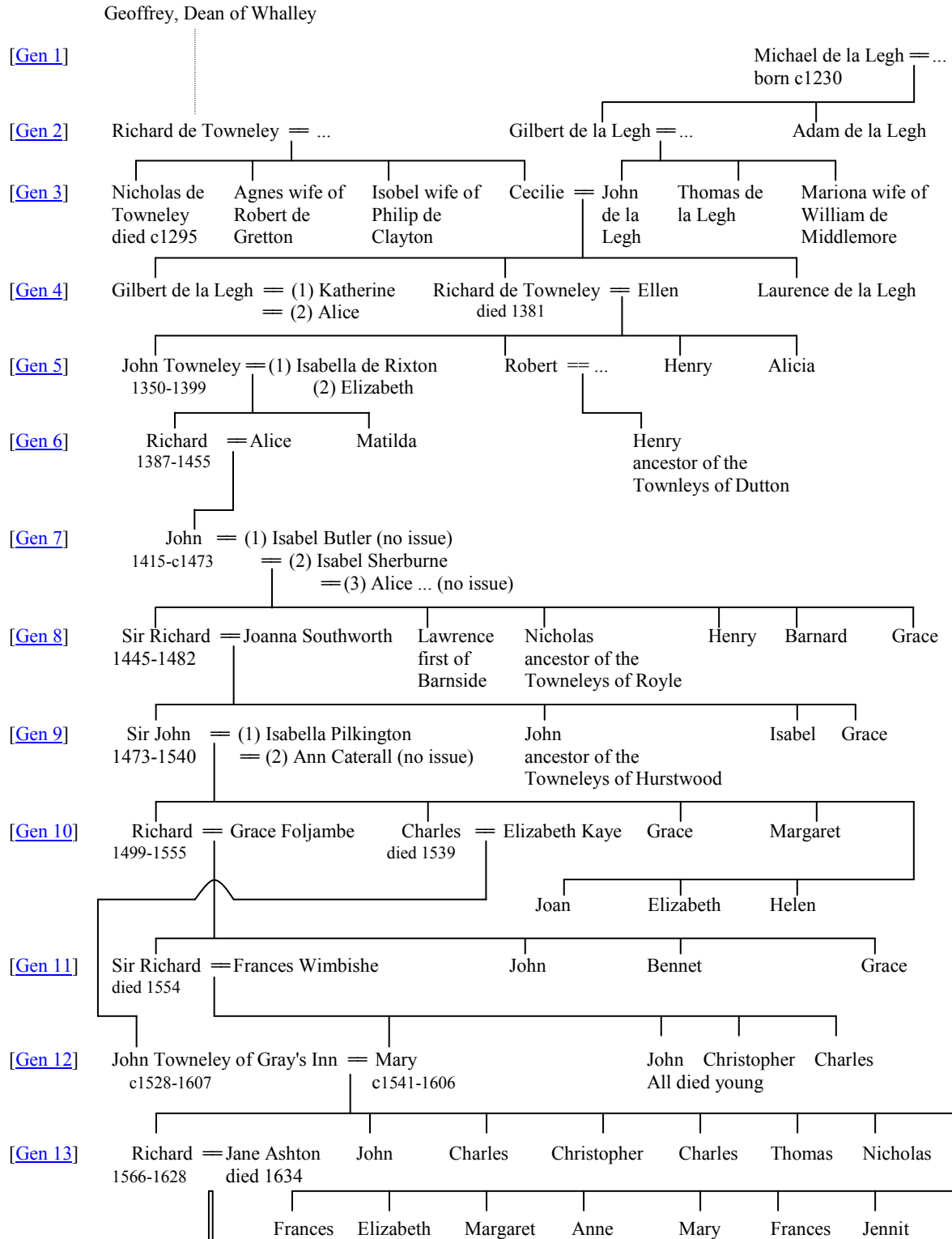
Lord Abingdon's portion was principally the Hapton part of the estate. Lady Alexander Gordon-Lennox received what became known as the Worsthorne estate, with land in Worsthorne and Cliviger. The third portion, including Towneley Hall and its park, went to Lady O'Hagan. Lord O'Hagan had not been a rich man and Alice found it difficult to maintain the Hall on her part of the income from the estates. In 1895 she offered to sell the Hall and 62 acres of park land to Burnley Corporation. The sale was completed in 1901 and the land was opened as a Public Park on June 28th 1902. On the 20th May 1903, the Hall was opened as an Art Gallery and Museum, which it still is today.

On the death of Cosmo Charles Gordon Lennox, son of Lord and Lady Alexander Gordon-Lennox, in 1921 the Worsthorne estate passed to his cousin Lady Alice Reyntiens, a daughter of the seventh Earl of Abingdon and Caroline Towneley. When she died in 1950, her daughter Lady Norman succeeded her, but made over the estate to her elder son Simon Towneley Worsthorne in 1952. In 1955 he assumed the surname and arms of Towneley by Royal Licence. Unlike the Towneley Hall, Hapton, Bowland and County Durham estates, all long since sold, the Worsthorne estate has continued to remain in the family.

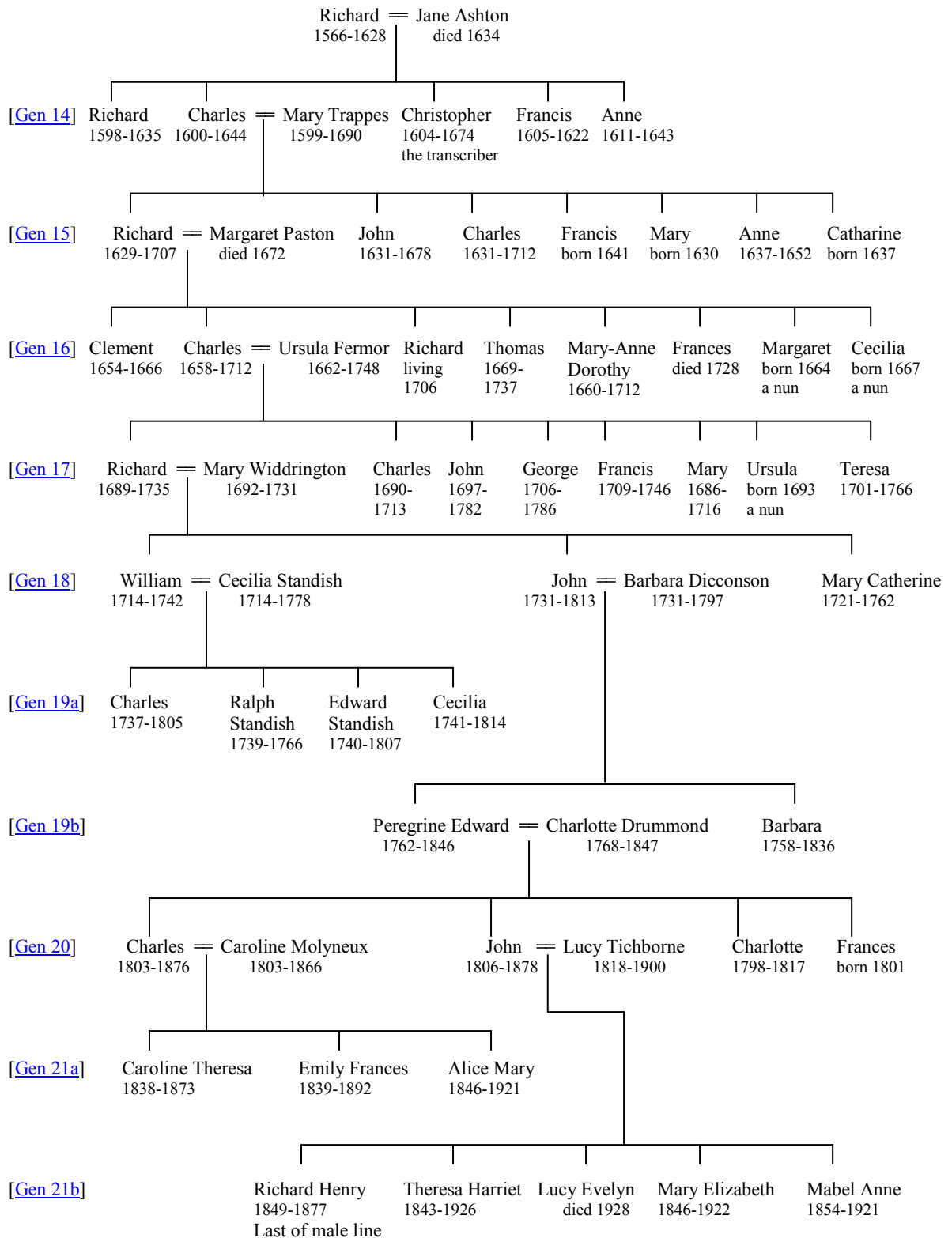
The pedigree of the Towneleys of Towneley

Roger de Lacy granted land in Towneley to Geoffrey, Dean of Whalley around 1200. This pedigree shows the descent from father to son of the family who lived there.

Notes for each generation are indicated on the left [Gen x]. Those children who died as infants are mostly omitted from the chart to simplify the layout, but all those known are included in the notes.



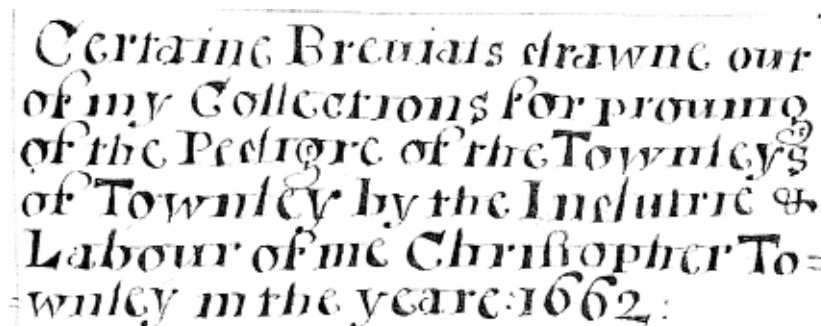
The pedigree of the Towneleys of Towneley (continued)



Notes about the pedigree chart

The notes for generations 1 to 14 are based primarily upon the 1662 evidences of Christopher Towneley (1604-1674) [Identified below by CT and folio number].

It is supplemented by the research of William Farrer, which was published in The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster Volume 6 edited by William Farrer and J. Brownbill and published by Archibald Constable & Co. in 1911. [Identified below by VCH and relevant page number.].



Certaine Breviats drawne out
of my Collections for proving
of the Pedigree of the Townleys
of Townley by the Inquirie &
Labour of me Christopher To-
wneley in the yeare 1662.

Christopher Towneley's evidence book begins :

"I have not breviated all the deeds which have come to my hands by many hundreds but have made choice of such as I thought fit to prove the descent from father to son but those that desire to see either the deeds at length or to question these breviates may have better satisfaction out of my book TT... and my other collections "

These collections are now scattered across a number of libraries and a list is given in the bibliography at the end of this document.

William Farrer (1861-1924) was a professional historian specialising in feudal genealogy. Details of his life can be found in the Dictionary of National Biography 1922-1930. He purchased several of Christopher Towneley's evidence books and copied many others to aid his work. All this material can now be found in the Farrer Collection at Manchester Central Library (Manchester Archives and Local Studies).

The grant of Towneley by Roger de Lacy to Geoffrey Dean of Whalley is the first entry in Christopher's evidences but no attempt is made to show a link between this Dean and the later members of the family. [CTfI]

The suggestion that the Towneley family were descended from Spartling, the first Dean of Whalley on record, seems to have been first made by Thomas Dunham Whitaker in his History of Whalley published in 1801. It was based on a 14th century document called the Status of Blagbornshire drawn up by the monks of Whalley Abbey [VCH p.355-6]. Farrer pointed out that the early descent of Towneley was far from clear and identified Michael de la Legh as the earliest person whose descent can be shown with any certainty [VCH p457]. Michael was the next major entry in Christopher's evidences.

[Gen 1]

Michael de la Legh (born around 1230)

[*CTf13*] The Abbot of Newboe his grant to Michael de la Legh of certain lands in Extwistle. The original grant is now in the Towneley file at Lancashire Record Office [DDTo K/5/4].

This charter without date only shows he existed and indicates that later members of the family held this land in Extwistle. Other records show he witnessed a charter of Abbot Adam (between 1249 and 1259) and was allowed pasturage in Cliviger by Abbot Henry (between 1280 and 1284) [DDTo O 1/83], [*VCH p480*]

[Gen 2]

[*CTf25*] A grant of land from Henry de Lacy to Gilbert, son of Michael de la Legh, our Escheator of Blackburnshire. (10th March 1302).

[*CTf27*] A deed without date showing Adam son of Michael de la Legh. [DDTo O 12/17]

[*CTf29*] An entail of Gilbert de la Legh upon Gilbert his grandchild, son and heir of John de la Legh by Cecily daughter of Richard Towneley, upon the marriage of Gilbert and Katherine daughter of Richard de Balderston (dated 1336). [DDTo O 1/19]

Christopher does not name wives for either Gilbert, son of Michael, or Richard of Towneley. In 1303-4 Cecilia de Thonlay in her widowhood granted to John son of Gilbert de la Legh all the lands she had by reversion of dower in Towneley, Brunshaw and Worsthorpe [DDTo 11/25] [*VCH p457*]. She may have been the wife of Richard of Towneley but this is not certain. The name of Alice has been suggested for the wife of Gilbert, son of Michael from a grant appearing in the next generation when Thomas de Legh granted the third part of Towneley to Gilbert de la Legh on condition he founded a chantry at Burnley (dated 1372-3) [DDTo K 16/2] [*VCH p451*].

[Gen 3]

[*CTf49*] A transcript of the court presentation of John de la Legh, son of Gilbert, in 1323. He claimed he was free to hunt in the moors in Towneley and in Cliviger by right of his late wife Cecily of Towneley.

[*CTf51*] A deed showing Thomas de la Legh held the third part of the manor of Towneley in 1332 by which Christopher supposed he was brother to John de la Legh.

[*CTf271*] An entail by Gilbert de la Legh in 1321 which shows that Mariona was his daughter and was now the wife of William Middlemore. [DDTo O/12/40]

Christopher does not name any children of Richard of Towneley other than Cecily. Some of them can be found in court proceeding recorded in 1315 when Robert de Gretton and Agnes his wife complained that John de la Legh and Cecilia his wife and Philip de Clayton and Isabel his wife had refused to make partition of the manor of Towneley which Agnes, Cecily and Isabel had inherited from their brother Nicholas de Towneley. He appears to have died around 1295 [*VCH p457*]. The three sisters are also shown to have held land in Worsthorpe in 1292 [*VCH p474*].

[Gen 4]

[CTf271] An entail by Gilbert de la Legh, son of Michael, in 1321, which shows Gilbert, Richard and Laurence, were brothers and his grandsons. [DDTo O/12/40]
[CTf73] An indenture of 1343 showing Hapton was made over to Gilbert de la Legh and Alice his second wife during the life of Katherine Balderston, his former wife.
[CTf81] The inquisition showing the death of Alice, the widow of Gilbert de la Legh and when the estate fell to John, son and heir of Richard of Towneley. (Inquisition on 31st March 1388)
[CTf97] A deed proving Ellen was wife of Richard of Towneley in 1345.
[CTf111] The inquisition showing the death of Richard of Towneley and that John was his son and heir and 31 years old at his death. (He died 16th April 1381)

[Gen 5]

[CTf133] An indenture of marriage between John Towneley, son and heir of Richard, and Isabella daughter of William Rixton. Here Christopher writes the year as 1392 but it is recorded elsewhere as 1382. This is fortunate because their son Richard was born in 1387. Further to this [CTf144] is the inquisition showing the death of William Rixton and that Richard son of John Towneley was heir to William Rixton (dated 1399).
[CTf139,140] To prove that John Towneley in 1397 handed his lands to two chaplains who in turn granted them back to John and his heirs and for default to Robert and Henry his brothers with a jointure for Elizabeth his later wife; and that John sealed the settlement with the arms of three mullets and a fesse which the de la Leghs formerly used. [DDTo O 1/42 & O 1/43]
[CTf142] The inquisition showing the death of John Towneley and that Richard was his son and heir. (He died 8th September 1399).
[CTf146] The inquisition showing the death of Elizabeth, wife of John Towneley. (She died 27th March 1401).
[CTf135] An indenture of 1356 to show the marriage between Alice, daughter of Richard Towneley, and Edmund, son and heir of Sir Thomas Dakyr.

[Gen 6]

[CTf143] A record showing that Richard, son and heir of John Towneley was born on 14th May 1387 at the Stede in Dutton.
[CTf161] A bond showing that Alice was the widow of Richard Towneley in 1454. [DDTo K 21/29]
[CTf162] The inquisition showing the death of Richard Towneley and that John Towneley was his son and heir. (He died 30th September 1454). [DDTo K 32/55]

Christopher makes no mention of a son of Robert, brother of John Towneley, but Henry, son of Robert is by several grants shown to be the ancestor of the Towneleys of Dutton [VCH p481].

[CTf164] To show Matilda, sister of Richard Towneley, was married to William Fleming son of John Fleming and grandson of Sir Thomas Fleming.

[Gen 7]

[CTf173] The deed of marriage of John Towneley and Isabel daughter of Nicholas Butler in 1418. [DDTo O 12/98] [CTf175] Two bulls concerning the divorce of John Towneley and Isabel Butler (dated 1442). [CTf193] A deed whereby Isabel surrendered her jointure after her divorce (dated 1442). [CTf194] Another deed wherein John surrendered the jointure of Isabel Butler to Richard Towneley his father (dated 1445). [DDTo O 9/24]

[CTf195] The deed to show John Towneley married Isabel daughter of Richard Shireburne and that she had the same jointure that Isabel Butler had (dated 1st April 1445).

[CTf196] An indenture showing that John Towneley had a third wife called Alice in 1462. [DDTo O 1/55] [CTf198] A document showing Alice late wife of John Towneley was excommunicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, dated 5th February 1473/4.

It is unclear when John died as there are no records of any inquisition at the time of his death. A transcript of the inquisition at the death of John's son and heir, Richard in 1482 indicates that Richard had made an enfeoffment of his lands at Towneley on 5th May 1470 but other records suggest this was actually in 1474.

[Gen 8]

[CTf212] An indenture dated 24th September 1472 between Richard Towneley, son and heir of John Towneley Esq., and Christopher Southworth Esq. shows Richard would wed Johan, sister of Christopher, before the feast of St. Martin (November 11th).

[CTf216] A deposition at Whalley in 1474 showing that Richard, Lawrence, Nicholas, Henry and Barnard Towneley were all brothers. (Not mentioned by Christopher is another document showing that in 1456 John Towneley made a feoffment of his lands to trustees lead by Thomas Lord Stanley, showing Richard was his heir with remainders successively to Lawrence, Nicholas, Henry and Bernard.) [DDTo/ O/1/53]

[CTf209] To show Richard Towneley was knighted at Hutton field in Scotland as it appears in the roll of the battle in 1482.

[CTf209] The inquisition showing the death of Richard Towneley and that John Towneley was his son and heir and 9 years old. (He died 8th September 1482).

[CTf215] An indenture to show the marriage of Roger Nowell of Read, son and heir of Alexander Nowell, and Grace daughter of John Towneley in 1468.

[Gen 9]

Sir John Towneley was born 31 July 1473, his birthday being written in a missal in Burnley Church. Mr Dodsworth recorded that Sir John died 5th March 1541 but William Farrer believed it was a year earlier, [VCH p458-9].

[CTf243] An indenture showing the marriage of John son and heir of Richard Towneley with Isabel daughter and heir of Charles Pilkington on 2nd August 1480. [DDTo K 32/36]

[CTf251] An indenture for settling certain lands of Sir John on 5th July 1531 which shows that Ann was his second wife.

[CTf254] Documents showing Dame Anne late wife of Sir John was married to William Radcliffe in 1543. Other documents not used by Christopher indicate Anne was the daughter of Rafe Caterall and this is recorded at the visitation of Sir William Dugdale in March 1665.

[CTf264] The last will and testament of Sir John written 8th April 1539 include a provision giving his brother John Towneley a lease of Broadhead coal mine. An indenture of 1560 [CTf406] records Barnard Towneley as bastard son of John Towneley brother to the said Sir John. The fact that two brothers share the same name implies that they had different mothers but none of the records state that Sir John's brother was the natural son of Sir Richard. At the 1665 visitation, he is recorded as the third son of Sir Richard, another brother Charles being shown as the second son. Charles does not appear at all in Christopher's evidences and earlier pedigree charts may simply have recorded Sir John's second son Charles in the wrong place and this Charles is omitted from the 2004 pedigree chart.

[CTf247] A bond to show the marriage of Grace, daughter of Sir Richard Towneley, and Thomas Hesketh of Rufford in 1492.

[CTf268] The inquisition concerning Sir John Talbot who died in 1511 shows he had married Isabel, daughter of Sir Richard Towneley, in 1480. [CTf260] A bond and indenture show that Isabel afterwards married John Hopwood in 1515.

[Gen 10]

[CTf291] Indenture to show the marriage of Richard, son and heir of Sir John Towneley and Isabel his wife, to Elizabeth Fuljambe, daughter of Bennet and the late Henry Fuljambe in 1511.

[CTf301] Dispensation in 1525 for the marriage of Charles Towneley 2nd son of Sir John Towneley and Elizabeth widow of John Nowell of Read. She was a Kay by birth within the parish of Rochdale.

[CTf305] A church court record of 1562 showing Grace daughter of Sir John Towneley had married first to Sir Robert Hesketh of Rufford and then around 1546 married Lawrence Habergham of Habergham Hall.

[CTf295] Indenture to show the marriage in 1513 of Nicholas Bannister of Altham and Margaret daughter of Sir John Towneley. [DDTo D 43/9]

[CTf292] Dispensation in 1506 for the marriage of Robert Nevill of Liversedge and Helen daughter of Sir John Towneley. [DDTo O 9/29]

[CTf297] A licence for the marriage in 1515 of Thomas Shireburne of Stonyhurst and Joan daughter of Sir John Towneley.

There were two additional pieces of information not recorded by Christopher in 1662 but added at the visitation of Sir William Dugdale in March 1665. First Joan (Jane in the visitation record), after marrying Thomas Shireburne, married Ralph Shuttleworth of Hacking. Second, an additional daughter, Elizabeth, who in an earlier version of the family pedigree compiled around 1651 was shown as married to John Cooke of London. The visitation record also omits Margaret Bannister who may have been confused with Margaret, the natural daughter of Sir John and Janet Ingham.

[Gen 11]

[CTf340] Indenture dated 25th September 1536, between Sir John Towneley and Mary Wimbishe of Nocton widow, agreeing Richard, son and heir of Richard Towneley, son and heir of Sir John, shall wed and take to his wife Frances Wimbishe one of the daughters of the said Mary.

[CTf315] The inquisition showing the death of Sir Richard Towneley and that Mary, the 13 years old, was his sole daughter and heir. (He died 22nd October 1554).

[CTf251] In Sir John's indenture for settling his lands in 1531, he names John Towneley, brother of Richard Towneley the younger, (otherwise unknown). [DDTo K 32/77]

[CTf274] The last will of Charles 2nd son of Sir John Towneley, who died in 1539, shows John as son and heir and that Elizabeth his wife and John his son were executors.

[CTf322] The last will and testament of Richard Towneley shows John Towneley of Gray's Inn, his nephew, was an executor of the will. [CTf313] The last will of Sir Richard Towneley in 1553 shows he bequeathed to John Towneley, son and heir of Charles Towneley, one close called Ightenhill Park.

[CTf313] The last will of Sir Richard Towneley in 1553 names his sister Bennet. She was elsewhere recorded as married to Thomas Nowell of Read.

[CTf322] The last will and testament of Richard Towneley names Grace, wife of Hugh Halstead, as his daughter.

[Gen 12]

[CTf364] Christopher records the names of the three brothers of Mary Towneley but provides no further evidence.

[CTf372] A licence for the marriage of John Towneley and Mary Towneley dated 8th June 1557.

[Gen 13]

The painting of the family in 1601 shows the seven sons and seven daughters and by now the family had begun to write down the details of their history. Under the picture are written the names of the children, the ages of John (73 years) and Mary (59 years) and details of John's imprisonments. Christopher writes that the following he found under the hand of Richard (his father) but Christopher has also added events relating to dates after his father's death in 1628.

[CTf402] First Mr Richard Towneley his son and heir was born at Towneley the 29th April 1566 and was married to Jane Ashton eldest daughter of Raph Ashton of Lever esquire 25th May 1594. He died at London upon St Andrew's Eve (29th Nov.) 1628.

John Towneley second son was born 30th September 1567 and married and had issue Eulisses. This John was buried at Burnley 30th June 1632,

Charles Towneley third son was born 5th November 1569 and never married.

Christopher Towneley fourth son was born 6th January 1570/1. He married Theodosia Tunstall, daughter of Tunstall of Ankeland Esquire, by whom he had three daughters Dorothy and Susan who never married and Margaret married to Mr Hugh Wadsworth near Preston. This Christopher died at Pendle Hall and was buried at Burnley 1st December 1623.

Charles Towneley fifth son was born 28th February 1572/3. He married Susan Rose and had issue by her two daughters, Ellin who married Mr Henry Shireburne of Ribbleton near Preston; Susan the second daughter married Thomas Button, a goldsmith of London. This Charles died about 1646 at Lincoln. His seat was Braddon near Lincoln.

Thomas Towneley sixth son was born 8th August 1576 but never married.
Nicholas Towneley seventh son was born 1st February 1577/8, never married he died at Hurstwood and was buried 22nd April 1650.

Jennit Towneley died and never married
Frances Towneley second daughter never married.
Mary Towneley third daughter never married
Anne fourth daughter married William Middleton of Stockhill Esquire in the County of York being his second wife by whom he had issue William & John. William married Anne Walmsley, daughter of Thomas Walmsley of Dunkinshall in the County of Lancaster Esquire, and had issue / but died young. She afterwards married Sir Edward Osborne of Ryton in the County of York Knight, by whom she had issue.
Margaret Towneley fifth daughter never married.
Elizabeth Towneley sixth daughter never married.
Frances Towneley seventh daughter was born 11th April 1579 but never married.

[CTf422] ... the said Richard Towneley did build the great building upon the north side of the house where the kitchen is in, it was finished about 1626.

[Gen 14]

Christopher writes that the following he found under the hand of Richard (his father).

[CTf426]

John Towneley my eldest son was born 9th December 1595, he died the same month.

Richard Towneley my second son was born upon Easter day 16th April 1598.

Thomas Towneley third son born Monday 8th May 1599.

Charles Towneley fourth son born Sunday 22nd April 1600.

John Towneley fifth son born 18th February 1600/1 and died the day after.

John Towneley sixth son born Thursday 2nd December 1602 and died the night after.

Christopher Towneley seventh son born Monday 9th January 1603/4.

Francis Towneley eighth son born Wednesday 2nd April 1605

Anne Towneley my only daughter born Wednesday 29th May 1611.

{Christopher continues}

Note that Richard Towneley never married and enjoyed the estate about 5 years. He died at Lincoln and buried at Nocton Church 23rd December 1635.

Charles Towneley 4th son married Mary Trapps and had issue by her and he was heir to his brother and the 2nd July 1644 he was slain at Hesom Moor at the raising of the siege of York and was buried on Marsden moor near Wilsthroppe vide his deed of marriage.

Christopher Towneley 7th son married Alice daughter of John Braddyll of Portfield and relict of Richard Towneley of Carr Esquire about 1639, both have no issue by her and both living 1659.

Francis Towneley 8th son lived till he was 16 years of age and died at Saint Omers.

Anne Towneley the only daughter of Richard Towneley and Jane his wife was married about 1628 to John son and heir of Sir Edward Plompton of Plompton Knt. and had issue by her. She died in 1643 at Thorneton Woods near Ripley in childbed of her youngest child Robert now son and heir. She was buried in Spawford church in Plomptons Quire And John Plompton her husband died about the 25th of July 1644 in the castle at Knaresborough having gotten a bruise at Hesom Moor and buried in the church at Knaresborough in regard of the wars at that time.

[Gen 15]

Christopher listed the children of his brother Charles but provided no further evidence [CTf455] The issue of Charles and Mary is as follows:

Richard Towneley son and heir

John Towneley 2nd son living 1659

Charles Towneley 3rd son living 1659

Francis Towneley 4th son living 1659

Mary Towneley eldest daughter married to Philip Constable of Hough in the County of Lincoln and has issue now living 1659

Anne Towneley 2nd daughter died at London and buried in St Giles in the field in 1652.

Katherine 3rd daughter now living 1659

A pedigree chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux in the 1760s provides the birth dates and the known dates of the deaths are from church records.

[Gen 16]

The evidence for the sons of Richard Towneley and Margaret Paston is rather confused. Christopher records four sons Clement, Richard, Charles and John. The information presented at the visitation of Sir William Dugdale is dated 30 May 1664 and indicates that Richard and John were dead. A fifth son Thomas is shown on the version printed by F. R. Raines in 1873. Other evidence records that Thomas was born 22nd January 1669 and, as often happens with visitation records, it suggests that the original records have later been changed. Clement is buried in the church of Brotherton, West Yorkshire. A memorial to him there states he was buried there in July 1666. Richard Towneley's will in 1706 shows Charles was his heir and there were two younger brothers, Richard and Thomas. The pedigree chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux includes the first four sons along with Philip (not mentioned elsewhere) and Thomas. A catalogue of family portraits in the Gallery in 1844 includes portraits said to be of John Towneley the 4th son and Richard Towneley the 6th son of Richard Towneley and Margaret Paston.

William Langton provided this list for the 4th edition of the History of Whalley:

Clement born at Nocton 3rd May
1654 (died young)

Richard born 29th September 1655
(died young)

Charles born 19th April 1658

John born and died 1st September
1659, buried at Burnley.

John a monk (portrait)

Richard born 21st September 1664

Thomas born 22nd January 1669

In comparison the evidence for the daughters is clearer.

Christopher records three daughters Mary Ann Dorothy, Frances and Margaret. A version of the pedigree published by T. D. Whitaker in his *History of Whalley* in 1801 makes the mistake of showing Mary Anne Dorothy as three separate people, a mistake repeated by later publishers. Other evidence shows the fourth daughter Cecily was born 17th April 1667 and both she and Margaret are mentioned in Richard Towneley's will in 1706.

Records now in the DDT0 file at Lancashire Record Office show Mary Anne Dorothy was married to Francis Howard of Corby Castle in the County of Cumberland Esq. and Frances was married to Cuthbert Kennet of Coxhow in the Bishopric of Durham. All four daughters were represented in the catalogue of family portraits in the Gallery in 1844.

After this generation there is much more documentary evidence to back up the pedigree chart. In addition Ursula Fermor, wife of Charles Towneley wrote down a little of the family history and also passed on the oral family history to her children and grandchildren such as John Towneley (1731-1813). He in turn related the oral history to Thomas Dunham Whitaker, who incorporated it into his publications.

Ursula wrote "I was married at Stafford House in London 12th September 1685.
...Charles Towneley my husband died 1st March 1711/12".

[Gen 17]

Ursula's account of her children's birthdays does not agree entirely with the chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux but is a fairly close match. Those born between March 1706 and March 1727 were recorded in the Towneley Mass Book and this survives in the Museum archives.

Richard, first son, born 13 June 1689 and died 14th August 1735, buried at Burnley. In September 1713 he married Mary Widdrington, 2nd daughter of William Widdrington Lord Widdrington. She was born in 1692 and died 30th June 1731 and was buried at Burnley.

Charles Towneley, second son, born 24 Nov 1690 died unmarried 27 April 1713.
Sir John Towneley, third son, Knt of the Order of St Louis born 3rd January 1696/7.
George Towneley, fourth son, born 12th May 1706. He married Mary daughter and co-heiress of Albert Hodgson of Leighton Hall, relict of Ralph Standish Esq.
Francis Towneley, fifth son, born 8th June 1709, suffered 30th July 1746; unmarried, his remains buried at St. Pancras

Mary, eldest daughter, born 9th August 1686, died 13 August 1716 and buried at St Pancras

Ursula born 24 December 1693, living at Louvain 1765 a Nun of the Order of St Augustine.

Teresa born 6 August 1701. She married Sir George Mostyn of Talacre on 22nd September 1723 at Holywell. They had issue and the baronetcy is still extant. She died 27 March 1766 and is buried with her husband at Holywell.

Ursula also records Charlotte, third daughter, born 24th May 1692; died 12th Oct. 1699 buried at Burnley, together with three other daughters Ursula, Margaret and Frances who died young.

[Gen 18]

This information is taken from an addition to the chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux. It dates from around 1807 but is unsigned.

William, eldest son of Richard Towneley and Mary Widdrington, was born in May 1714 and died at Bath 2nd February. 1741/2, buried at Walton near Bath.
In 1736 he married Cecilia, 5th daughter and sole surviving child of Ralph Standish of Standish by Lady Philippa Howard, his first wife and daughter of Henry Duke of Norfolk. She died 21st December 1777 and is buried at Standish.

John was born 15th June 1731 and succeeded to the Towneley Estate on the decease of his nephew Edward Towneley Standish in 1807. At Standish on 8th March 1756, he married Barbara, fourth daughter of Edward Dicconson of Wrightington. She was born in January 1731 and died 25th December 1797 and was buried in the Family Vault at Chiswick.

Mary was born 8th February 1721. On 18th June 1748 she married Thomas Hornyold of Blackmore Park. She died in London 25th June 1762.

Two Richard's Two Charles's and a Daughter all died young.

[Gen 19a]

This information is mostly taken from an addition to the chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux. It dates from around 1807 but is unsigned.

Charles Towneley, son and heir of William Towneley and Cecilia Standish was born 1st October 1737. He never married and died on 3rd January 1805 and was buried at Burnley.

Ralph Standish Towneley the second son was born 18th June 1739. He married Henrietta, 9th daughter of Roger Strickland, on 28th August 1762. There were no children from this marriage when he died at Paris in March 1766.

Edward Towneley the third son was born 25th June 1740. He took the surname of Standish in 1766. He married Anne, only daughter of Basil Thomas Eccleston, on 11th February 1771 at Prescott. She died on 17th May 1801 and was buried at Chiswick. There were no children from this marriage and he died 29th March 1807 and was buried at Standish.

Cecilia, the only daughter was born 30th July 1741. She was married at Standish on 20th April 1762 to Charles Strickland of Sizergh. He died on 6th October 1770 and was buried at Kendal. She secondly married Gerard Strickland who died in 1795. She died in 1814.

[Gen 19b]

This information is mostly taken from an addition to the chart compiled by Charles Townley Clarenceux. It dates from around 1807 and is unsigned.

Peregrine Edward Towneley, only surviving son of John Towneley and Barbara Dicconson, was born at Corney House Chiswick on 10th October 1762. He married Charlotte, youngest daughter of Robert Drummond, on 22nd April 1794 at St. James's Church Westminster. He died 31st December 1846 and she died 11th January 1847.

Barbara, only surviving daughter of John Towneley and Barbara Dicconson, was born at Burghope in the County of Hereford 14th April 1758. She was married to Sir William Stanley of Hooton on 2nd August 1785 at Chiswick. There were no children from this marriage and he died on 29th May 1792. She died 5th August 1836.

There were two other sons, John-Charles and Henry, and four other daughters, Barbara and Mary twins Ursula and Elizabeth, who all died as infants.

[Gen 20]

By the 19th century all the basic facts supporting the pedigree chart were on public record

- Charles was born 8th January 1803. He married Lady Caroline Molyneux, daughter of 2nd Earl of Sefton on 19th November 1836 at St James's Westminster. She died 8th February 1866. He died 5th November 1876.
- John was born 16th February 1806. He married Lucy Ellen, daughter of Sir Henry Tichborne, on 28th October 1840. He died on 21st February 1878. She died 8th April 1900.
- Charlotte Mary was born 6th February 1798. She died unmarried in 1817.
- Frances was born 15th April 1801. She was married to Thomas Stonor on 25th July 1821. Her husband was summoned to Parliament as Baron Camoys on 14th September 1839.

[Gen 21a]

- Caroline Theresa was born 4th April 1838. She was married to Montague Arthur Bertie, Lord Norreys, son of the 6th Earl of Abingdon, on 10th July 1858. She died 4th September 1873 leaving a son and three daughters. Lady Alice Josephine, the second of these daughters was the grandmother of Sir Simon Towneley who in 2004 continues the traditions of the Towneley family and is a great supporter of the museum.
- Emily Frances was born 28th November 1839. She was married to Lord Alexander Gordon-Lennox, 5th son of the 5th Duke of Richmond, on 6th August 1863. They both died in 1892 leaving one son Cosmo. Cosmo Gordon-Lennox died in 1921 bequeathing his mother's portion of the Towneley Estate to his cousin Lady Alice Josephine Bertie.
- Alice Mary was born on 6th July 1846. She married Thomas 1st Baron O'Hagan on 2nd August 1871. There were two boys and two girls surviving at the time of her husband's death in 1885. She died 17 November 1921. Her descendants continue to support the museum at Towneley with long term loans of family items of historic interest.

[Gen 21b]

Richard Henry was born on 5th February 1849 and died unmarried in 1877. Three of his sisters married but there were no children from any of these marriages.

- Theresa Harriet (1843-1926) married Mr John Delacour in 1890. She died 23rd September 1926
- Lucy Evelyn (died 1928) married Colonel John Murray, 23rd Laird of Touchadam, chief of the Clan Murray in 1877. She died 19th June 1928.
- Mary Elizabeth (1846-1922) became a nun. She died 31st March, 1922
- Mabel Anne (1854-1921) married. Lewis Henry Hugh, 9th Lord Clifford of Chudleigh in 1890. She died 24th January 1921.

The base born children

The pedigree chart does not include the illegitimate children who appeared in Christopher Towneley's evidences. As Christopher wrote in the opening page "*I ...made choice of such as I thought fit to prove the descent from father to son*". The entails of the estate normally stipulated "heirs male of the body ... lawfully begotten" and finally "for want to the right heirs". Only once, in 1560, were illegitimate sons included in a Towneley entail. Then the family were looking to avoid a situation in which the estate might eventually be divided between daughters.

The main groups of illegitimate children shown in Christopher's evidences belonged to Sir John Towneley (1473-1540) and his son Richard. In Sir John's last will he left "*Thomas Towneley my bastard son ...my lease ... of one water milne and one fulling milne being within the township of Colne*". Sir John also remembered three of his natural daughters - Jane Dalton, wife of William Dalton Esquire, received two silver spoons "*of the best sort*"; Margaret his daughter received "*one of my best*" spoons, whilst Ellinor wife of Evan Haydock received "*another of my best*" spoons.

One version of the pedigree compiled around 1651 included Thomas, Jane, Margaret and Ellinor as the children of Janet Ingham *second wife* of Sir John Towneley. Christopher's evidence shows that Jane, daughter of Sir John, married William Dalton in 1533 and that Margaret, daughter of Sir John, married Lawrence Habergham in 1551.

The will of Sir John's son Richard is much more explicit in writing of "*Ann, Ellin and Mary, daughters of the late Alice Brinley and bastard daughters to me*". It also records "*John, son of Isabel wife of Thomas Benthams, called and taken to be my bastard son*". Richard also left 40 shillings to "*Johan Townley my bastard daughter*" and to "*John Townley, otherwise called Doneley*". This John Doneley (or Dyneley) is not named explicitly as his son in this will but is shown as the elder of Richard's two bastard sons in the entail of 1560.

The illegitimate Towneley children were not confined to the first half of the 16th century as can be seen from examining the Burnley parish register of christenings for 1562 to 1652:

1577 June 7 th	Ambrose base son of Lawrence Townley
1580 May 10 th	John base son of John Townley
1587 January 5th	Cornelius base son of Lawrence Townley
1604 October 18 th	Mary base daughter of John Ridyalghe al's John Townley and Elizabeth Foulds
1610 January 14th	William base son of Cornelius Townley
1612 Mar 17 th	James base son of Cornelius Townley
1623 Feb 13 th	Lawrence base son of Richard Towneley and Janet Spenser

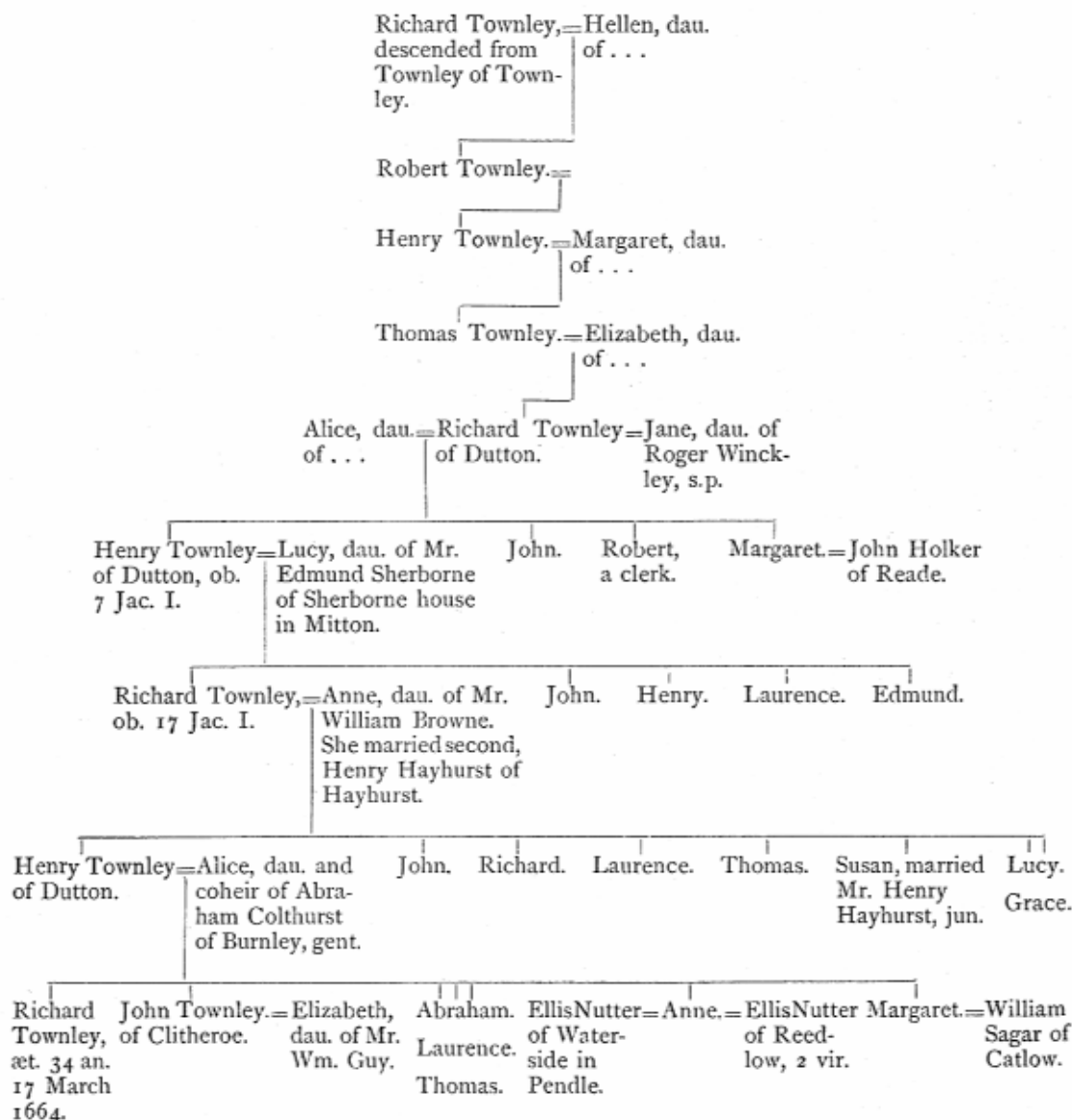
The fathers named were from the various branches of the family. It is likely that Cornelius Townley (born 1587), after marriage, was the father of Lawrence (born November 1616), John (born May 1619), Cornelius (born September 1622), Sara (born May 1625) and Ambrose (born August 1628). Similarly his base son William (born 1610) was possibly the father of Susan (born July 1641), when her father was recorded as *William Townley of Burnley als Will of Lucas*. William Townley of Burnley died in 1642 but there was another William Townley of Pendle whose daughter Mary was born in 1648. There were clearly many more people carrying the Townley name in the 17th century than were ever recorded in the pedigree charts.

The family branches

The main branches of the family are the ones recorded during Sir William Dugdale's visitation of Lancashire, made on behalf of the College of Arms in 1664-5. The pedigree charts below are from the transcript edited by Rev. F. R. Raines and published by the Chetham Society in 1873 (Remains historical and literary connected with the palatine counties of Lancaster and Chester Old Series Volume 88).

Townley of Dutton.

Arms. — Argent, a fess sable, three mullets in chief of the second, with a rose on the fess, proper.



Manchester, 17 March 1664.

Richard Townley.

Dutton

Dutton is close to the River Ribble near Ribchester and around 14 miles north west of Towneley. There have been problems in establishing the links between earlier and later members of this branch. Farrer describing Dutton in Volume 7 of *The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*, wrote that the origin of the Towneley estate there was uncertain [*VCH vol.7 p.54-61*]. He shed some light on the early members of this branch through their ownership of land in Cliviger. In 1421 Henry and Margaret his wife held land in Dineley. In 1446 Henry Townley granted Stonehouse to his son Thomas. In 1493 Richard Townley son and heir of Thomas sold Dineley to Lawrence Towneley of Barnside [*VCH vol.6 p 481*]. It is hard to believe that this Richard was the same as the Richard who married Jane Winckley and was on other evidence alive in 1573.

Joseph Foster's *Pedigrees of the county families of England, vol. 1: Lancashire*, published by Head, Hole and Co., London in 1873 provided a detailed pedigree of the Towneley family including the Dutton branch. This claimed the Dutton branch descended from a second son of Richard Towneley (1387-1455) which appears on all available evidence to be wrong. It is more likely that there were one or two generations missing between Thomas and Richard, husband of Jane Winckley. The Towneley entail of 1560 included John Towneley of Dutton and, according to Farrer, this John was son and heir of Richard Towneley of Dutton. John's will of 1562 gave his lands to his wife Katherine and £10 to his daughter Jane [*VCH vol.7 p.56*]. It seems likely that Henry who married Lucy Sherborne was his nephew or brother and the later parts of 1664 pedigree chart appear to fit Farrer's other evidence.

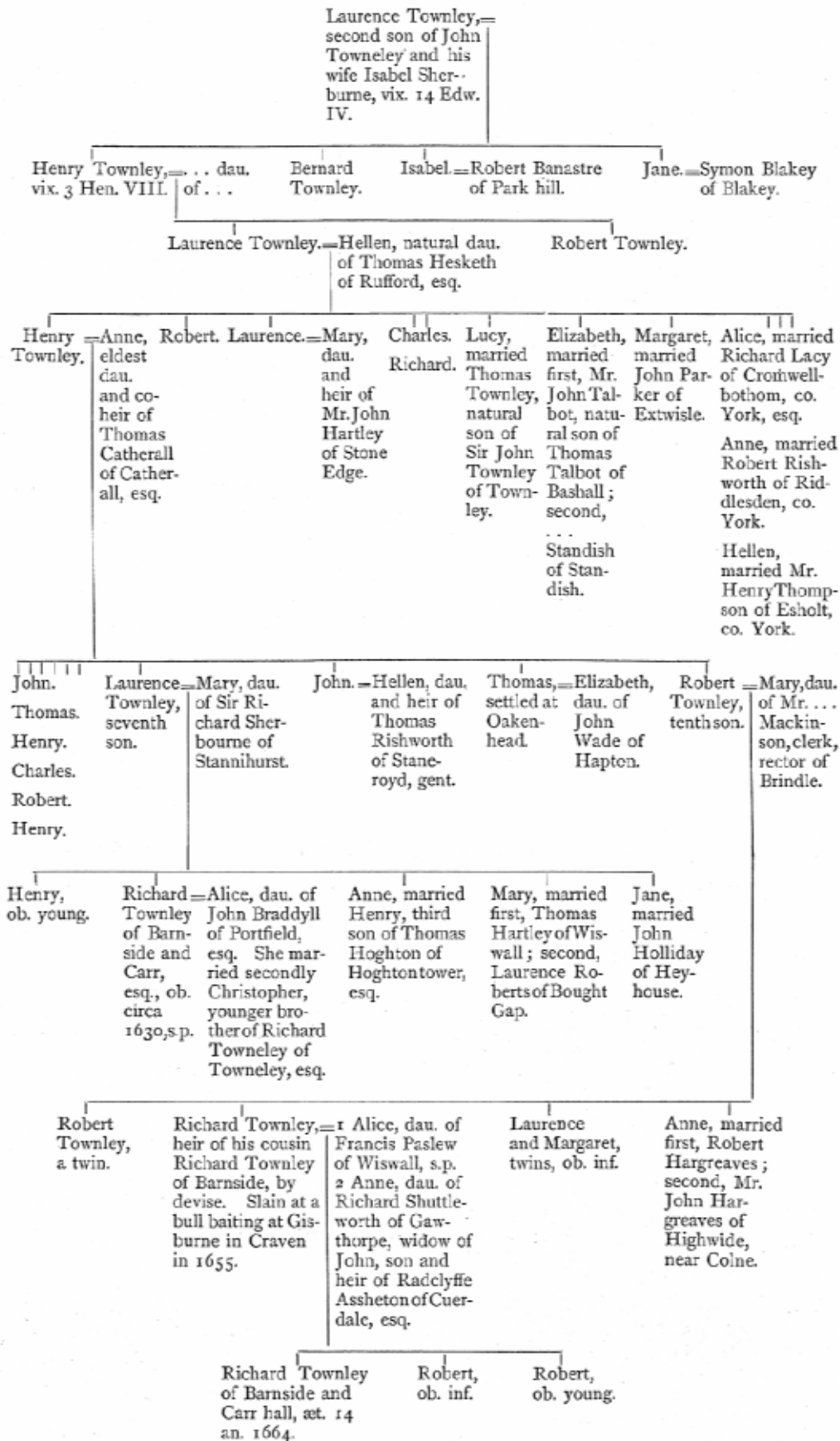
Richard, the head of this branch in 1664, is said to have built Dutton Hall and died in 1670. His brother Abraham inherited his estate and the last member of the Townleys of Dutton to live at Dutton Hall died there in 1799. Abraham's son Richard Townley (1689-1762) settled in Rochdale. He was steward to Alexander P. Butterworth of Belfield Hall, who left him the Belfield Estate on his death in 1728. Richard married Jane Greaves, who was the heiress of Fulbourn and Beaupré Hall, Cambridgeshire. His son Richard Townley (1726-1802) made a considerable contribution to the local community around Rochdale.

Richard Greaves Townley (1786-1855), great grandson of the first Townley of Belfield, sold Belfield in 1851. The family then lived at Fulbourn and Beaupré Hall and followed careers in the diplomatic service and the Anglican Church. In 1883 Charles Watson Townley esq. was Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. Beaupré Hall was on the borders of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire in the village of Outwell. The hall ceased to be a family residence in about 1939. It was used as an RAF base during the Second World War and after the war it drifted into disrepair and was finally demolished in 1966. Today the Wildlife Trust manages the Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve, which is open to the public during daylight hours, on behalf of the Townley family who still live in the area.

Judging from the entry in Foster's *Pedigrees* in 1873, the Dutton branch of the family were the most prolific of the local branches of the family. It is likely that many of those bearing the Townley name in the North West of England today are descended from those members of this branch who moved to Rochdale, Manchester and the Lake District.

Townley of Barnside.

Arms. — Argent, a fess sable, three mullets in chief of the second.

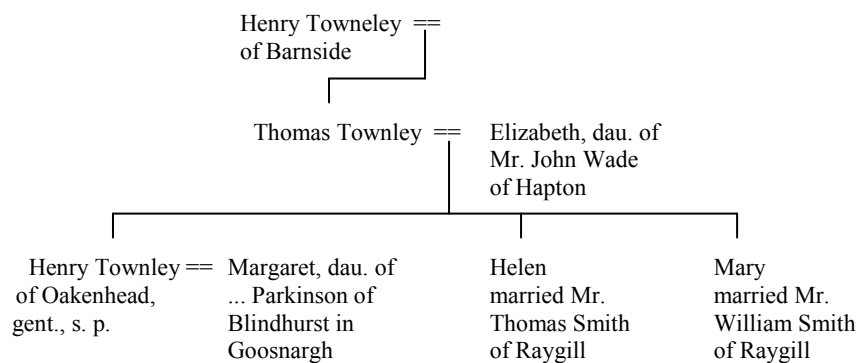


Barnside

Barnside is a little over 3 miles east of Colne and 10 miles north east of Towneley. Farrer's description of Barnside in Volume 6 of *The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*, pages 546-8, provides evidence for the 1664 pedigree. This branch of the family also owned Carr Hall in Barrowford. After Christopher Towneley married the widow of Richard Townley around 1639, he lived at Carr Hall during his wife's lifetime. The Richard Townley (aged 14) mentioned in the visitation of 1664 married and had one son but then the male line ended and his grand daughter Margaret married John Clayton of Little Harwood and the Barnside and Carr lands went into the Clayton family. The house at Barnside was abandoned as the residence of the family in the 18th century, Carr Hall being preferred. Carr Hall was demolished in the 1970s.

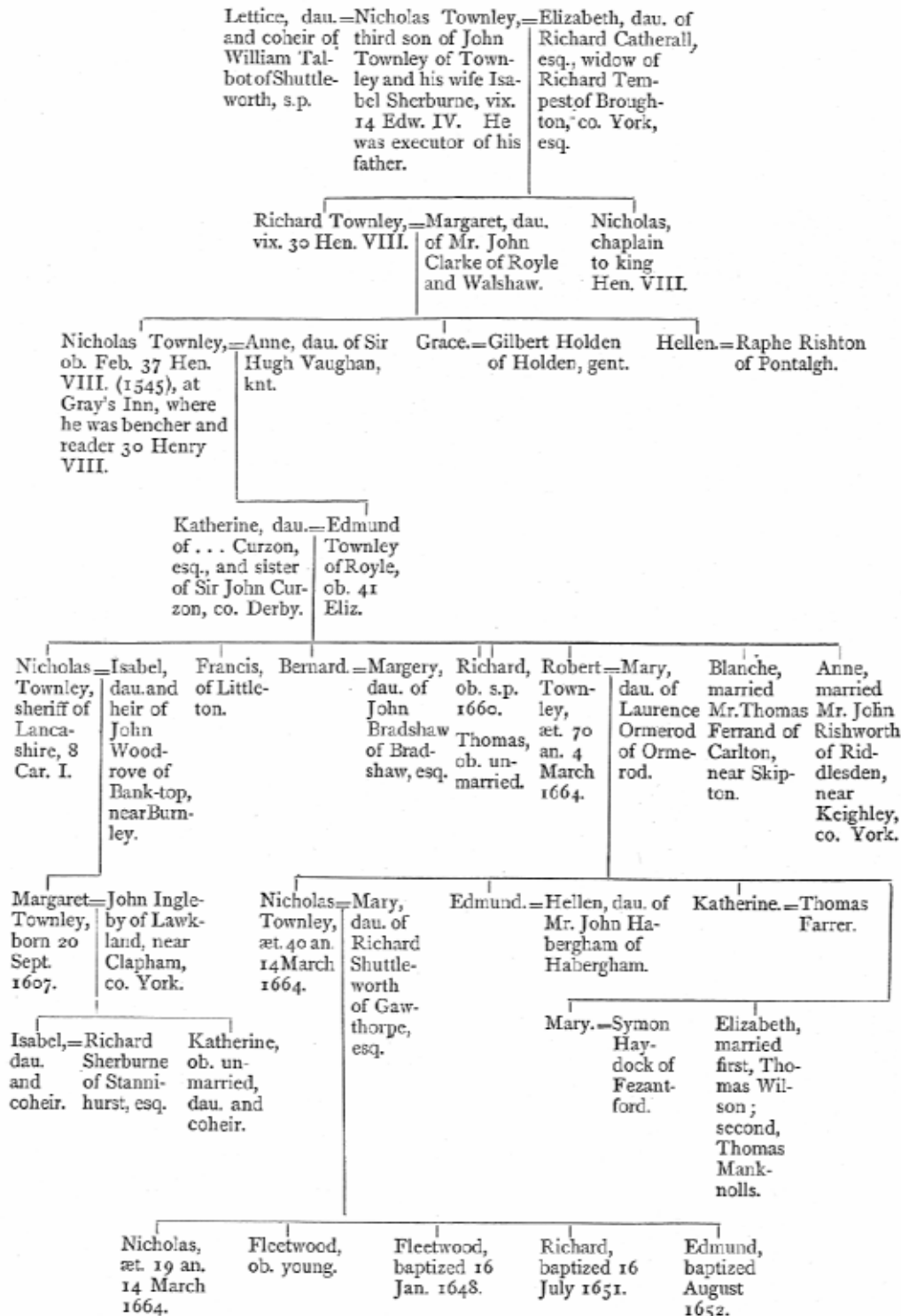
The Towneley entail of 1560 placed the Barnside branch of the family first in line to inherit the Towneley estate in the event of John and Mary failing to produce a male heir. In 1601 a new settlement had only needed to name the numerous males descendants of John and Mary then still alive. Christopher Towneley's evidences [CTf428], show that on 7th April 1630 Richard Towneley (1598-1635) drew up a document "*for cutting of an estate taile*", that is for a new settlement of the estate. He was unmarried, his brother Charles had only one six-month-old son and his only other living brother Christopher was still unmarried. In the event of them dying without further male heirs, Richard identified his uncle Charles (born 1573) as the only other remaining male descendant of John and Mary Towneley. For want of male heirs of John and Mary, the 1630 entail identified Nicholas Towneley of Royle and his brother Francis and their male heirs as the ones to inherit the estate. The Barnside branch of the family had been cut out along with the Stonehedge branch, which was descended from Laurence, the third son of Laurence Towneley and Helen Hesketh. There is nothing written in Christopher's evidences to explain why the Barnside family were treated in this way but there is no evidence that Laurence, second son of John Towneley and Isabel Sherburne, was ever married. A suggestion that his children were illegitimate would be a legal reason to exclude them.

Towneley of Oakenhead is recorded as a separate branch of the family in F. R. Raines' transcript of 1873 but it is not clear if the record is part of Dugdale's visitation as no date or signature is given. It seems that the branch was short lived.



Townley of Royle.

Arms. — Argent, a fess sable, charged with a mullet of the first, in chief three mullets of the second.



Manchester, 14 March 1664.

Nicholas Townley.

Royle and Littleton

Royle is on the River Calder 3 miles north west of Towneley with Burnley centre halfway between the two. Farrer's description of Royle in Volume 6 of *The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*, pages 445-6, provides evidence for the 1664 pedigree. According to Farrer, Nicholas Townley (c.1574-1645), eldest son of Edmund Townley, was at first Catholic but about 1630 conformed to the Anglican Church and so became qualified to act as Sheriff of Lancaster in 1631-2. Nicholas bequeathed the estate to Nicholas, son of his brother Robert, rather than to his daughter or the son of Francis of Littleton, Robert's elder brother. Robert's descendants prospered at Royle for many years. As followers of the established church, they held many of the local positions denied the Catholic Towneleys. When the last male descendant Edmund Townley died in 1796, the Royle estates passed to his niece Anne and her husband Robert Parker of Extwistle whose family took the name Townley-Parker but later Towneley-Parker.

Francis Townley, 2nd surviving son of Edmund Townley of Royle moved to Littleton sometime after 1600, having inherited land there from his maternal great uncle. (Littleton is near Staines, now in Surrey rather than Middlesex and not far from Heathrow airport). Nicholas Townley (1612-1687), son of Francis, initiated an unsuccessful suit in Chancery Court to regain the Royle estate in 1646. Around 1660 Nicholas sold the land at Littleton and moved to London. The family prospered in London and their history is given in detail in Naomi Slater Heydon *Looking back ...* (Nemo Publications, Ottawa Ontario, 1980).

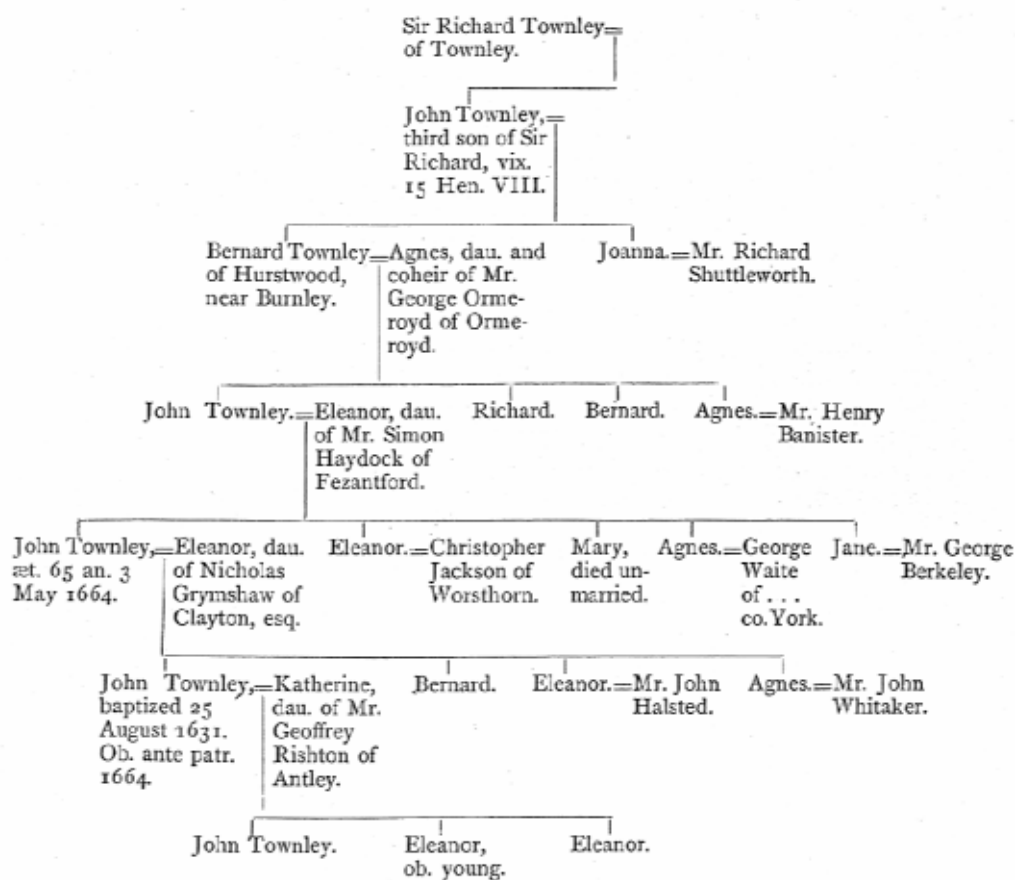
One of these descendants has already been mentioned in relation to the Towneley pedigree. This was Charles Townley (1713-1774), a great grandson of Nicholas. He spent his career in the College of Arms. He was appointed a junior herald when he was 22 and became Norroy king-of-arms at 38. As Clarenceux king-of-arms, he was knighted at George III's coronation in 1761 and finally became Garter principal king-of-arms in the year before he died. He visited Towneley in 1742.

Hurstwood

Hurstwood is less than two miles east of Towneley. This branch was started by Barnard Towneley bastard son of John Towneley brother to Sir John as recorded in the Towneley entail of 1560. Farrer's description of Hurstwood in Volume 6 of *The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*, pages 477-8, confirms the evidence for the 1664 pedigree chart. The John Townley who gave evidence on May 3rd 1664 died in July of that year. John Townley, his grandson, married and raised two daughters before his death in 1704. The Hurstwood land was purchased by Charles Towneley (1737-1805) for the Towneley family in 1803.

Townley of Hurstwood.

Arms. — Argent, a fess sable, three mullets in chief of the second.



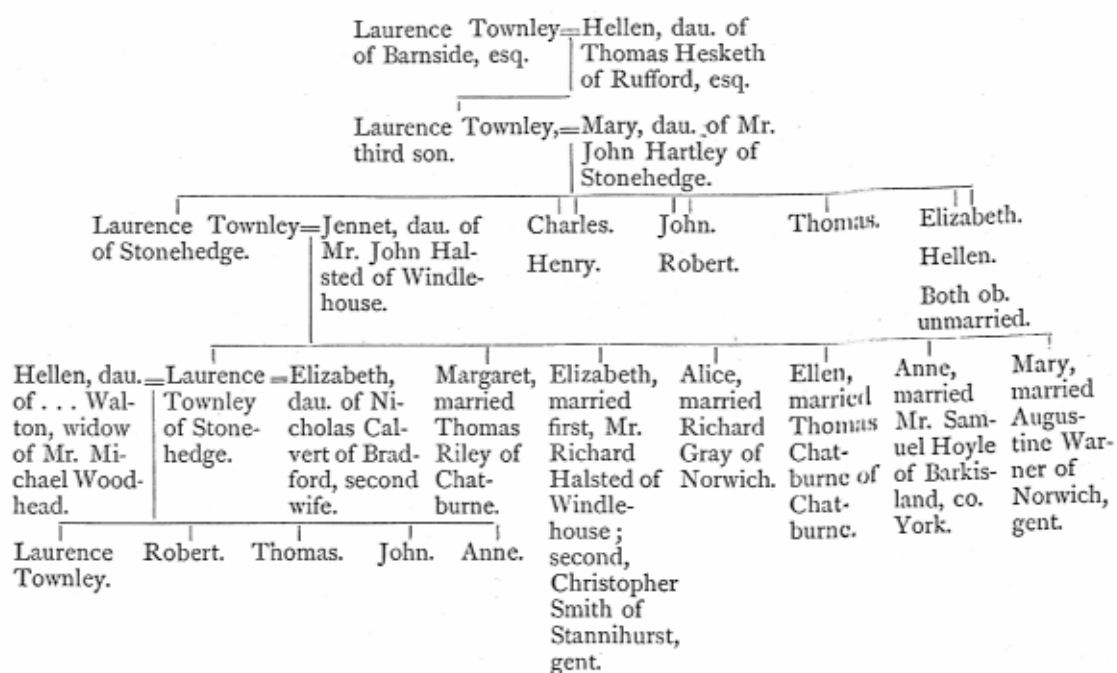
John Townley.

Stonehedge

Stone Edge is less than a mile from the Pendle Heritage Centre in Barrowford and about 7 miles north of Towneley. The Victoria County History provides little information on the Stone Edge branch of the family but Naomi Slater Heydon in *Looking Back ...* (see Royle and Littleton) adds more information to that provided by the Dugdale visitation pedigree. The fourth Laurence of Stonehedge immigrated to America, as did his brother John. The third brother Thomas was designated heir of Stone Edge in 1674. There are baptism records for two sons John (1673-) and Richard (1682- 1726). Richard later moved to Malkin Tower (close to Stone Edge).

Townley of Stonehedge.

Arms. — Argent, a fess sable, three mullets in chief of the second, a mullet for difference.



The American descendants

Quite a few descendants of John Towneley and Isabel Sherburne, who married in 1445, had visited America before 1700. Almost certainly the first was Alexander Whitaker (1585-1616). His grandmother was Elizabeth Nowell, granddaughter of Grace Towneley. He settled in Virginia in 1611 and his first hand account of the country was published as *Good News from Virginia* in London in 1613. He never married but his brother Jabez, who also lived for a time in Virginia, left many Virginian descendants.

Townley of Stonehedge in America

Mary Townley (1614-1662), the sixth daughter of Laurence Townley of Stonehedge and Jennet Halstead, is shown in the 1664 pedigree to have married Augustine Warner of Norwich, gent. A number of Mary's relations had settled in Norwich, then one of the largest cities in England after London. Augustine Warner (1611-1674) first went to Virginia in 1628 and it seems that Mary Townley joined him in 1638.

There appears to have been a regular emigration of people from East Lancashire in the following years. It is important to realise that land was granted to those who could import others to Virginia in the 17th century and so they encouraged their friends and relations. Laurence Smith, born in Burnley in March 1629, went to Virginia in 1652. He was the son of Christopher Smith of Stannihurst and Elizabeth Townley, sister of Mary Townley. In 1656 and 1657 he was granted land for bringing in others. Sometime before October 1672, the fourth Laurence Townley of Stone Edge went to Virginia to marry Sarah Warner, daughter of Augustine and Mary Warner. His brother John may have gone at the same time because he was granted land in Virginia in 1676. Many of the Townleys of Virginia who are alive today are descended from this John Townley. The descendants of Augustine and Mary included President George Washington whilst those of Laurence and Sarah included General Robert E. Lee.

Further information on the Townleys of Virginia can be found in two articles by Mary Burton Derrickson McCurdy in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* Vol. 77 no. 4 for October 1969 ("A discovery concerning the Townley and Warner families of Virginia") and Vol. 81 no. 3 for July 1973 ("The Townleys and Warners of Virginia and their English connections").

Townley of Littleton in America

Richard Townley 8th son of Nicholas Townley of Littleton went to America in 1683. He was in the suite of Francis Howard, Lord Effingham who was going to Virginia as Governor of the Colony. Within two years, Richard had moved to New Jersey where he married Dame Elizabeth Carteret, widow of Sir Philip Carteret, first Governor of the Province of New Jersey. They had two sons Effingham and Charles (c1686-1756) and a daughter Sarah. All the children married and had children themselves. They were a prolific family and details of the many descendants of Colonel Richard Townley were published in the *Jersey Genealogy* column of the Saturday issues of the Newark (N.J.) Evening News between September 2 and December 19 1903. Their history is also recorded in Naomi Slater Heydon *Looking back ...* (Nemo Publications, Ottawa Ontario, 1980).

The Claimants

Anthony Richard Wagner, later Garter King of Arms, writing in *The records and collections of the College of Arms*, (Burke's Peerage Ltd., London, 1952), makes particular mention of a nineteenth century American school of scientific genealogists. They set themselves with great thoroughness and scholarship to learn all that could be learned of the English origins of the early settlers of their country and particularly of New England. Some of these American genealogists settled in England and worked in close touch with English genealogists. Among the most notable was Colonel Joseph Lemuel Chester (1821-82), who was a great benefactor to the College of Arms.

In contrast, others recognised an opportunity to make money from the growing interest of the American public in genealogy. At one level, this simply amounted to the publishing of pedigree books with no regard to their accuracy. At another level, there were numerous designing lawyers and peddlers of worthless bonds. They touted genealogical evidence as the key to unclaimed wealth from estates held in the Court of Chancery of England. A classic example was the fictitious Lawrence-Townley Estate that was used to separate thousands of people in North America from their money in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The proposition was very simple: (a) there was a large estate in England held in the Court of Chancery because the rightful heirs had gone to America and had not yet been found; (b) these heirs were the descendant of Mary Townley who married John or Joseph Lawrence and settled in America.

In one version of the fraud, a sole heir had been found but needed funds to establish his case in England. Buying a \$20 bond would get you back \$1000 when the heir received his money from the Court of Chancery. In another scheme, you might be one of many heirs who would share the estate. All that was required was payment to a solicitor in order to establish your claim in England.

In 1888 Frank Alden Hill, an American genealogist researched the case of the Lawrence-Townley Estate fraud in order to understand why some many people had been deceived. His book *The Mystery Solved - facts relating to the "Lawrence-Townley," "Chase-Townley," marriage and estate question* (Rand Avery Company, Boston 1888) makes interesting reading. According to Hill, the origins of an unclaimed Townley estate probably went back to 1735 when Margaret Chase (d. 1741) contested the will of her uncle Francis Townley (1664-1734), a member of the Littleton branch of the family. Margaret had married Richard Chase (1692-1742) in 1714 and their descendants had settled in Maryland. The earliest swindle involving a Townley estate claim that Hill identified was one occurring in Baltimore in 1830 when members of the Chase family were supposedly the heirs.

Holgate's American Genealogy, published by George P. Putnam in 1851 contained the claim that "*Joseph Lawrence of Flushing, Long Island, in 1690, married Mary Townley daughter of Sir Richard Townley*". Other versions of the story involved a John Lawrence and in 1869, as a descendant of John Lawrence, Jasiel Lawrence claimed he was the sole heir to the Lawrence-Townley Estate worth 73 million pounds sterling. In 1878 the fraud was given a boost by newspaper reports of the death of John Towneley of Towneley, the last of his line.

Up to this point the action took place almost entirely in America. After 1878, Americans started to visit London and Lancashire to find out for themselves the validity of the claims. They were not alone, Colonel James F. Jacquess, the Lawrence attorney, now also had an office in England. As the swindle developed, it was important that he appeared to make progress on the claims. When George Storey, the steward of the Towneley Estate, wrote to James Usher of New York in 1882, he reported "*I saw Colonel J. F. Jacquess several times and he never would tell me what he wanted*". Usher visited England himself and published his own findings in 1883, which were that the Lawrence claims were entirely false.

James Usher *History of the Lawrence-Townley and Chase-Townley estates in England: with copious historical and genealogical notes of the Lawrence-Chase, and Townley families and much other valuable information* ([s.n.], New York 1883)

The long delay in settling the Towneley estate after 1878 was due to its complexity and in no way related to the American claimants; but the subsequent newspaper reports in America helped to bring in more claimants. The third reading of the Towneley Estate Act was passed on August 4th 1885. On August 26th William Northcote Geare of Toronto sent letters to all the main newspapers in the US and Canada reporting the progress and nearly final issue of the Lawrence Townley Estates. This made no mention of a sole heir, instead the "Consolidated Lawrence Townley Estate Managers" were pretending that the creation of the Towneley Estate Act was due to their efforts and requested all parties claiming to be heirs to contact them in Toronto. As a result, over the next five years Jacquess deposited £25,453 in his London bank. It was estimated that between 1876 and 1893 he obtained no less than £33,000 (over \$4 million dollars today) to pay for litigation costs that could not have amounted to more than £1,000.

When the Lawrence claim went to court in June 1886 Jacquess knew he could not win but, with appeals to higher courts, he hoped to spin the case out for several years. Each year would bring in more money from his victims. To this end, he employed a High Court solicitor named Howell Thomas and it was not until April 22nd 1890 that the case



finally hit the buffers in the House of Lords. After the case was lost Jacquess and Thomas had a falling out over what remained of the money and had a civil action between themselves. This turned out disastrously for both of them.

First because of complaints made by Jacquess, Thomas was charged with obtaining money by false pretences. In July 1894, Thomas was found guilty and sentenced to five years penal servitude. This was not the end of the matter for as a result of Jacquess's own admissions at this trial both he and Thomas were charged with fraud and conspiracy in connection with the Lawrence Towneley claims. Thomas pleaded guilty but Jacquess claimed he was innocent. On November 30th 1894, at the Central Criminal Court in London, Jacquess was found guilty and both were sentenced to twenty months' hard labour.

James Frazier Jacquess was born around 1820. He had been a schoolmaster, a preacher and had qualified for the American bar. At the start of the American Civil War he commanded the Seventy-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment and remained in the army until mustered out at the end of the war in June 1865. In 1864 Colonel Jacquess and James R. Gilmore, with President Lincoln's tacit approval, had a meeting with the confederate leader Jefferson Davis to probe and canvass peace overtures and Jacquess appears to have been held in high regard.

As Jacquess was 74 years old, one might have thought that a sentence of twenty months' hard labour would have killed him but this was not the case for on 28th September 1897 Colonel Jacquess was present at the reunion of his old regiment, held in Springfield. There he took the opportunity to tell the world how, many years before, he had converted Abraham Lincoln to Christianity. After his death, the survivors of the 73rd Regiment made a collection for a memorial tablet to him at Chaddock College in Quincy, Illinois. In October 1904, the contributors were told it was hoped the tablet would be in place within a couple of months but contributions were still welcome. The tablet was to be six feet high and four feet wide with his medallion portrait in bronze, life size. The inscription was to show his record as a preacher, an educator and a soldier. It could also have mentioned his services to genealogy. Many have taken a much closer interest in their family history because of him.

There is a final twist to the story of Mary Towneley and John Lawrence. All the Towneley pedigrees published in the last two hundred years until today have shown three lines descending from Richard Towneley (1629-1707) to three of his daughters Mary, Anne and Dorothy. They are shown on the pedigree chart in the Towneley Room at Towneley Hall. When Usher investigated the claims in 1880 he was able to show that Mary Towneley could not have married John Lawrence in 1690 because she had died in 1680 and "*was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Forde, near Little Crosby*".

In fact Usher was wrong, if there really was a Mary Townley buried at Forde, she was from another branch of the family. Richard Towneley's eldest daughter was christened Mary Anne Dorothy Towneley. The mistake of treating her as three individuals on a pedigree chart goes back at least to Whitaker's *History of Whalley*. The pedigree drawn up by the herald Charles Townley some forty years earlier made no such error. In one respect the mistake is understandable. Whilst it became fashionable later for a child to be given several Christian names, all the early members of the Towneley family had to make do with one. It was probably Richard's wife Margaret Paston, sometimes recorded as Mary Paston, who introduced multiple Christian names into the family. One message is clear. One should never trust anything written on a pedigree chart without seeing original evidence that can confirm it.

Other Townleys - spreading the net

Not everyone with the Townley surname can be easily linked to those living at Tunleia in the 14th century. Some living in Ireland in the 18th century were well known but there is at present no firm evidence that they were related. A newspaper cutting of 1741 from the Towneley family archive reports

"Dublin, July 25. Last Monday died Harry Balfour Townley, Esq., Member of Parliament for the Borough of Carlingford, a Gentleman of sweet Temper, great Honour and Hospitality, and every Virtue that could render a Man agreeable: And Blayney Townley, and John Macarrell, Esqrs. have declared themselves Candidates in his Room."

This family lived at Townley Hall, Drogheda, Co. Louth. According to the Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society (volume XXX 1987), it seems this house took the Townley name after a Blayney Townley married a Lucy Johnston in 1692.

PROCAT, the online catalogue of the Public Record Office of England and Wales, contains details of over 9 million files. It shows several cases before 1530 of people with some variation of the Towneley name living outside Lancashire who cannot be clearly linked with the Towneleys of Towneley. Here are just three examples:

[C 1/228/7] Edward, son and heir of Richard Townley. v. John Newhall, feoffee to uses.: Twelve mansion places in Silver Street.: London. (1486-1529)

[C 143/414/28] Edmund Tounley retaining land in Derby taken as a result of application to the Crown for licence to alienate land 15 RICHARD II. (1391/2)

[C 146/1060] Appointment of Richard Tounlay and Robert Tounlay attorneys to deliver seisin at Pershore in Worcestershire July 1st 1439.

William Camden, the Elizabethan antiquary, was the first to write about the history and development of English surnames. In 1605, he wrote with great perception *"And as to find the true original of surnames is full of difficulty, so it is not easy to search all the causes of alterations of surnames"*. The written name Townley has changed over time just as the spoken language has changed. Records of the family of the Deans of Whalley show both Tunlay and Tunley. The name originates from a common topographical description "town field" and it would be rather surprising if the place name were confined to Burnley. In fact, there is another Tunley in Lancashire, in the parish of Eccleston. Henry and William de Tunley paid taxes there in 1332 [VCH vol6 p.176].

The early versions most used by the family, previously named de la Legh, were Tounlay and Tounley. This second version was still in use in the 19th century when James Townley alias James Tounley, after serving in 88th Foot Regiment, entered the Royal Hospital at Chelsea sometime between 1825 and 1847. He was born in Dunleer, Louth, which was not many miles from Townley Hall, Drogheda. Townley eventually became the most usual version of the surname. Towneley was used by both the main line and the several branches during the 16th century but was almost completely superseded by the end of the 18th century. It was not until after Peregrine Edward Towneley inherited the estate in 1813 that he told Thomas Dunham Whitaker that he wanted Whitaker's third edition of the *History of Whalley* (published in 1818) to record the family name as Towneley. This made no difference to the pronunciation, which today is still 'Townly'.

In July 1569, the clerks at the distribution of Robert Nowell's bounty in Lancashire recorded the names Towneley or Towneleye for eleven people receiving cloth in Burnley, Habergham Eves and Cliviger. There were also three members of the Towneley household, Lawrance, John and Rychard, whose surname was Towneley. Amongst those present to witness the cloth being distributed was Gylbarte Towneley, clerk. The distribution of Robert Nowell's money was spread all over the country and included poor students at Oxford and Cambridge. Lawrance, a member of the household in 1569, may be the same person as Lawerance Towneley, recorded in 1572 as having lately come out of Lancashire and remaining about Oxford. On 8th of October of that year he was given sixteen shilling and eight pence of Robert Nowell's money.

The same records for the distribution of cloth in 1569 mention a Rychard Towene in Padiham and a John Townen with wife and Ellen Townen in Burnley. The surname Town is not very common in England today, perhaps even less so than Townley, of which there were roughly 2,000 instances on the UK electoral rolls in 2002. In general the majority of English surnames today have two syllables. At the beginning of the 16th century there was a preference for surnames "with the high sound of three syllables". One of the best examples of an augmented surname at that time relates to John Writhe, Garter King of Arms from 1478 to 1504. Writhe's son, who succeeded as Garter, became known as Sir Thomas Wriothesley.

It is easy to jump to the conclusion, perhaps wrongly, that some of the more ambitious members of the Towne family might have styled themselves Townesley. It has in the past be suggested that those with the surname Townsley are descended from the Towneley family but there is nothing in any of the family records to provide strong supporting evidence. There is one example to show the Tounesley name may have existed as early as 1402. It comes from one of a number of papers relating to a family called Waterton and (if the original document matches the catalogue description) it is a happy coincidence that a John Tounesley is mentioned:

Receipt: John de Waterton, esq., received from Thos. Chawser chief butler of the King by the hand of John Tounesley, out in the place of the same butler, in the port of Kyngeston upon Hull, one hogshead (dolium) of Gascony wine, granted to me by the King for my life. (1402) [DDTo O 18/31]

A catalogue of the Townley-O'Hagan Muniments held at Lancashire Record Office has been available on-line since March 30th 2004 and gives a summary of the content of over 2,000 files. It can be accessed via the UK National Archive Access to Archives web site at <http://www.a2a.org.uk> . Another catalogue at Lancashire Record Office pointing to Townley material contains documents of unknown provenance, possibly coming into the County Archive from former Clerks of the Peace. One example is document DX 1555 a declaration of trust that shows there was a Thomas Townley gent. living at Overwyersdale, in 1718. This area is just east of Lancaster and other evidence indicates that a family with the Townley surname lived in the area for many years. Searching the Access to Archives database using any of the versions of the Towneley family names as a keyword provides pointers to hundreds of catalogues from many different archives across England.

All this suggests that there is still much original material to be found and that the 2004 version of Tracing the Towneleys has done little but scratch the surface.

Annotated bibliography

Material available for further study

Original Sources

The following lists the collections of Christopher Towneley (1604-1674) as recorded in the UK National Register of Archives in 2004:

- (1) British Library, Manuscript Collections
Ref.: Add MSS 32097-116 passim
(antiquarian and heraldic notes)
- (2) Oxford University: Bodleian Library, Special Collections and Western Manuscripts
Ref.: MSS top Yorks. c 18, 23, 27-29, 31, 47; top gen. c 52
NRA 18985 Johnston
(1660-69: notes and letters to Nathaniel Johnston)
- (3) Wigan Archives Service
Reference : D/DZ A4
(historical transcripts)
(see Journal of Soc. of Archivists Vol. 3 1969 pp 577-78)
- (4) Manchester Archives and Local Studies -
Ref.: L1/47/1-5
NRA 17338 Dr Farrer
(part of antiquarian collection)
- (5) Oxford University: Bodleian Library, Special Collections and Western Manuscripts
Ref.: MS top Lancs. c 6; MS top Yorks. c 12; Lyell Empt. 33
(transcripts made by him from various sources, many of a genealogical nature)
- (6) Chetham's Library
Reference : MUN. A.2.97, A.2.121, D.3.1-13
NRA 17002 Chetham's L
see Hand list of MSS
(material compiled for proposed history of Lancs.)
commonplace book, recipes, astronomical MSS, material for proposed History of Lancashire and catalogue of books)
- (7) Lancashire Record Office
Reference : DDM
NRA 103 Molyneux
(c1670 : genealogical and heraldic papers)
- (8) West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds
NRA 19413 Chambers
(genealogical papers related to the Plumpton family)
- (9) Lancashire Record Office
NRA 1302 Towneley
(miscellaneous antiquarian papers)
- (10) Manchester University: John Rylands Library
Reference : Eng MS 737
(correspondence)

The main bulk of the original collection is in the British Library. In addition to several volumes of original material, the Farrer collection in Manchester contains copies of much of the material held by the British Library. The manuscripts in Chetham's Library include indexes and abstracts created by Christopher Towneley for his own use.

The rest of the Towneley family manuscripts are also spread across a number of libraries. A summary can be found on-line at <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/nra> under Towneley-O'Hagan family, Barons O'Hagan [GB/NNAF/F10831].

The Historical Manuscripts Commission gives concise details and locations in *Principal family and estate collections: family names L-W*. This is part of its Guides to Sources for British History and was published by the Stationery Office in 1999. Most of the deeds and manorial records are in file DDT0 in Lancashire Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston PR1 2RE.

Apart from Christopher Towneley's Evidence for proving the pedigree of the Townleys of Townley, on long term loan at Towneley Hall, the Museum archive includes the following manuscripts:

- (i) John Towneley's Account Book, 1601--1608 for Nocton Lincolnshire
- (ii) A mass book kept by the priest at Towneley between 1705 and 1722 including a list of christenings and marriages
- (iii) A Catalogue of the Library of John Towneley (1731-1813), with the diary of his visit to Towneley in the Summer of 1807
- (iv) A number of documents relating to Charles Townley (1737-1805) the collector.

Printed transcripts

Several Towneley manuscripts were transcribed and published in the 19th century by the Chetham Society:

OS 95 *Abstracts of inquisitions post mortem made by Christopher Towneley and Roger Dodsworth, vol. i Edward II - Henry V* (ed. William Langton, 1875).

OS 99 *Abstracts of inquisitions post mortem, vol. ii Henry VI-Charles II* (ed. William Langton, 1876).

OS 103 *Chetham Miscellanies*, vol. vi (1878)

a) *The rent roll of Sir John Towneley of Towneley, knight, for Burnley, Ightenhill, etc., in the county palatine of Lancaster, Anno Domini 1535-6* (ed. F.R. Raines).

The Executors accounts of Robert Nowell 1569 were privately published in Manchester in 1877 as *The spending of the money of Robert Nowell* (ed. Grosart, Alexander B.).

The registers of the parish church of Burnley in the county of Lancaster. Christenings, weddings and burials 1562 to 1653 was edited by William Farrer and published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society, Rochdale, in 1899.

Secondary Sources

Local history

- i. Farrer and Brownbill. *Victoria County History of Lancashire* (1906-1914). [VCH] Volume II provides background on the early feudal period; Volume VI covers the Blackburn Hundred south of the Ribble; Volume VII covers the Hundred north of the Ribble and Ribchester in Amounderness.
These have provided the main basis for the section *A short history of Towneley*
- ii. Whitaker, Thomas Dunham. *A History of the Original Parish of Whalley and the Honor of Clitheroe* (4th edition 1872-6) revised and enlarged by J. G. Nichols and P. A. Lyons.
Better known as the *History of Whalley*, it provides more detail of material only summarised in VCH and which references it in many places.
- iii. Brigg, Mary. *The People of Pendle I The early history of the Forest of Pendle* (Pendle Heritage Centre Ltd. 1989)
A clear description of the area from the development of the vaccaries in the time of Henry de Lacy up to the Tudor period.
- iv. Crosby, Alan. *A History of Lancashire* (Phillimore, 1998)
A useful introduction to the whole county of Lancashire
- v. Thornber, Titus. *A Pennine Parish - the history of Cliviger* (The Rieve Edge Press, 1987)
This comprehensive history of the land directly to the East of Towneley describes many of the neighbours and tenants of the Towneleys.

Family history:

- i. Chapples, Leslie. *Noblesse Oblige. A Towneley chronicle of historical fact, marriage links and notable family associations* 2nd Edition (Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museums Burnley, 2002)
This popular chronicle can be purchased at Towneley Hall. It mainly covers the period after 1800 and the daughters of that period and their families.
- ii. Heydon, Naomi Slater. *Looking back ... pioneers of Bytown*; (Nemo Publications, Ottawa Ontario, 1980)
Only a small part of the book covers Towneley but it is a good example of family history research. It is particularly useful for the Royle and Littleton branches and the Townleys of New Jersey. There are copies of this book at Burnley Reference Library, Lancashire Record Office and Towneley Hall
- iii. Rogers, W. Wayne. *Gone to Texas A brief history of some ... families of the South* (Bloomington, Illinois, 1978)
A limited edition of 300 copies, this covers the Stone Edge branch in Virginia.
- iv. Smith, John and Kit. *Towneley Hall: an Architectural History and Evaluation* (Heritage Trust for the North West, 2004)
This provides a detailed account of the family and the many changes they made to the building.